FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 166 *25 August 1978*

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Inter-American Naval Conference Holds Work Sessions A 1 1/A5
Massera Departs Conference A 1 1/A5
Research Programs Proposed A 1 1/A5

ARGENTINA

Military Committee Releases Communique on 24 Aug Meeting B 1 1/A6
No Date Set for Talks With Brazil, Paraguay B 1 1/A6
Possible 200-Mile Limit for Malvinas Protested B 1 1/A6
Navy Commander Massera Praises Relations With Peru B 2 1/A7
Agriculture Under Secretary Resigns Over Policy Issue B 2 1/A7
Diplomatic Relations Established With Surinam B 3 1/A8
Briefs: Mission to Spain; Entre Rios Governor Resigns; Egyptian Minister Arrives B 3 1/A8

BOLIVIA

Opposition Sets Deadline for Calling Elections C 1 1/A9
Interior Minister Rejects Call for Elections C 1 1/A9
Military Chief Promises Return to Barracks C 2 1/A10
Ambassador Ojara Views Andean Pact, Ties with Chile C 3 1/A11
Briefs: Cochabamba Air Base; Recognition of Pereda Regime C 3 1/A11

BRAZIL

MDB Candidate Addresses Party Convention in Brasilia D 1 1/A12
Figueiredo Denies Army Supports Bentes Monteiro D 1 1/A12
Foreign Minister Sees Chance for Resuming Parana Talks [O GLOBO 24 Aug] D 1 1/A12
Admiral Fraga Stresses Importance of South Atlantic D 2 1/A13
Foreign Ministry Spokesman Confident Over Urenco Deal [O GLOBO 22 Aug] D 3 1/A14
Year Delay Now Seen for Angra-1 Opening D 3 1/A14
Amnesty International Sees Improved Situation in Brazil D 3 1/A14

CHILE

Matthei Announces New Law on Relatives of Missing Persons E 1 1/B1
Pinochet Notes Improvement in Army Since 1973 E 1 1/B1
Regime Returns 400 Industrial Firms to Private Sector E 1 1/B1
Radical Party Head Urges End to Restrictions E 1 1/B1

COLOMBIA

FARC Communique Announces Guerrilla Groups' Merger F 1 1/B2
Favorable Situation Foreseen for Coffee Growers F 1 1/B2

PERU

Peruvian, Venezuelan Ministers Discuss Andean Pact J 1 1/B3
De La Puente on Human Rights J 1 1/B3
Consalvi Meets With Morales J 1 1/B3
Joint Communique Issued J 2 1/B4
Mining Agitation Blamed on Ultraleft Legislators J 2 1/B4
LA CRONICA Commentary Cited J 3 1/B5
Miners' Demonstration J 3 1/B5
Morales Greets Ceausescu on Romanian Liberation Day J 4 1/B6
Former Newspaper Owners Protest Expropriation J 4 1/B6
Briefs: Argentine Air Force Visitor; Andean Loan Authorized J 4 1/B6

MEXICO

Lopez-Portillo Speaks at Regional Disarmament Conference M 1 1/B7
Politician's Land Confiscated, Distributed Among Farmers M 1 1/B7

PANAMA

FSLN Commandos Arrive in Panama, Interviewed by Local TV N 1 1/B8
Sandinists Request Political Asylum in Panama N 2 1/B9
Torrijos Addresses Treaty Implementation Groups N 2 1/B9
Liberal, Agrarian Parties Outline Positions at Meeting [CRITICA 24 Aug] N 3 1/B10
Briefs: New Planning Office N 3 1/B10

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

Swedish Businessman Released by FARN Guerrillas P 1 1/B11

NICARAGUA

Siege At National Palace Over; Guerrillas Depart P 1 1/B11
Sandinists Leave P 1 1/B11
Prisoners Said Killed P 1 1/B11
Opposition Calls for Strike P 1 1/B11
Las Mercedes Airport Reopened P 2 1/B12
Somoza Addresses Nation P 2 1/B12
Commander Cero Interviewed P 15 1/C11

OTHER COUNTRIES

ECUADOR

New Elections Ordered in Cotopaxi Province V 1 1/D2
Government Favors 5-Percent Oil Price Hike V 1 1/D2

HAITI

Political Refugee at Mexican Embassy Flees V 1 1/D2

PB-710: FBIS-LAT-78-166

FBIS-LAT-78-166
Friday
25 August 1978
Vol VI No 166

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

LATIN AMERICA

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

This publication contains current news and commentary monitored by FBIS from foreign broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, and periodicals. Items are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign-language sources are translated by FBIS. Those from English-language sources are transcribed, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS. Labels such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how FBIS processed the information from the original. Names rendered phonetically or in transliteration are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clearly heard but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source.

Users of this publication may cite FBIS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying it as the secondary source. For example: "FBIS reports that Radio Moscow announced . . ." or "FBIS has monitored a broadcast from Hanoi which says . . ."

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

INTER-AMERICAN NAVAL CONFERENCE HOLDS WORK SESSIONS

PY2303407Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Today is the second day of the Ninth Inter-American Naval Conference in Lima. Work sessions were held this morning and this afternoon. Various issues were presented by the delegations from Colombia, Ecuador, the United States and Uruguay. The work sessions are being conducted under the guidance of Rear Adm Jorge Du Bois Seoane of the Peruvian Navy, who was unanimously chosen yesterday as the director of the continental naval conference.

Massera Departs Conference

PY2311531Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1240 GMT 23 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Lima, 23 Aug--The commander of the Argentine Navy, Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera, last night discarded any possibility of an eventual meeting in Lima with his Chilean counterpart, Adm Jose Toribio Merino. In a brief statement, Admiral Massera confirmed that he will return to Argentina today after he meets Peruvian President Francisco Morales Bermudez in the government palace.

By rejecting a meeting with Admiral Merion, Massera denied press rumors that the two navy commanders and members of the government juntas of their respective governments would take advantage of this opportunity to meet in Lima to discuss matters related to the conflict in the southern region of the continent. Regarding his immediate plans after his retirement on 15 September 1978, Massera indicated that he will make a decision after that date.

After speaking at the inauguration of the Ninth Inter-American Naval Conference to introduce his successor, Massera left the conference leaving Vice Adm Armando Lambruschini, current chief of staff of the Argentine Navy, as head of the Argentine delegation. The possibilities of a meeting between Massera and Merino during the conference have virtually vanished, since social visits are not necessarily the most appropriate way to discuss important matters.

Research Programs Proposed

PA2413407Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0924 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 24 Aug (EFE)--The Argentine delegation to the Ninth Inter-American Naval Conference will propose the creation of multinational naval research and development programs. The Venezuelan Navy asked for more effective environmental control over the seas at the Lima meeting.

The work sessions are being held in secrecy in a hotel in central Lima under very strict security measures. All reports about the conference are either partial or unofficial. In his speech, Vice Adm Armando Lambruschini, chief of the Argentine Navy General Staff, proposed changing the procedures for convoking the specialized meetings of the American navies. Lambruschini replaced Adm Emilio Massera, commander in chief of the Argentine Navy, who returned to Buenos Aires to participate in a meeting of the government Junta, of which he is a member.

The naval conference will end Friday, 25 August, with the participation of the naval chiefs of 13 American countries and one delegate from the Inter-American Defense Board.

MILITARY COMMITTEE RELEASES COMMUNIQUE ON 24 AUG MEETING

PY250207Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Text of communique released by the Military Committee on the meeting held at Libertador Building 24 August]

[Text] The secretariat of the Military Committee announces that the Military Committee held a meeting at 1700 hours on this date at the Libertador Building, headquarters of the army command.

Present at the meeting were foreign minister Admiral Oscar Antonio Montes and Jose Maria Klix; Maj Pablo Reynaldo Apolle, chief of the army staff; Brig Gen Jose Montes, deputy chief of the army general staff; Brig Gen Carlos Nicolaides, Vice Adm Julio A. Torti and Brig Diego Lopez, chiefs of operations of the general staffs of the three branches; Brig Gen Reynaldo Siemsen, Vice Adm Ruben Franzini and Brig Basilio Lami Dozo, secretaries general of the armed forces; and Brig Gen Alejandro Fonseca Rambo, chairman of the Argentine delegation to Joint Commission No 2.

After listening to the oral reports by the chairman of the Argentine delegation and by the chief of the joint staff referring to their respective areas, the Military Committee studied subjects related to security strategy in view of the conflict with the Republic of Chile over the jurisdiction of the Southern Beagle Sea.

The meeting of the Military Committee ended at 2000.

NO DATE SET FOR TALKS WITH PARAGUAY, BRAZIL

PY240341Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1911 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Aug (AFP)--The Argentine Foreign Ministry reported today that the date for the resumption of tripartite talks with Paraguay and Brazil on the Corpus and Itaipu hydroelectric dams has not yet been set. An authorized spokesman stated that this waiting period does not mean that an understanding is not being sought, and said that any speculations about the possible date of the meeting are unfounded. He stressed that the waiting period does not mean that nothing is being done because work is going on as usual, and added that it is risky to speculate on dates when the parties themselves have not declared themselves.

POSSIBLE 200-MILE LIMIT FOR MALVINAS DISCUSSED

PY241429Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Argentina has told Great Britain of its reservations of the negative impact on the Malvinas negotiations if Great Britain extends the maritime jurisdiction of islands under its jurisdiction, including the Malvinas Islands, to 200 miles.

This report was commented on by a Foreign Ministry spokesman who stated that the subject was included in the annual report which Argentina submits to the United Nations on the progress of negotiations. The spokesman denied that the Argentine attitude is unusual, and added that the new issue mentioned in the report, used to brief Kurt Waldheim on the status of negotiations, because Great Britain has mentioned the possibility on several occasions. In 1965 the United Nations recommended that the two governments hold talks on their differences and eventually, reports on progress.

The statement presented by our ambassador to the United Nations, Enrique Rios, was intended to break our silence in the face of this possibility since this silence could have been interpreted as a lack of interest or even acceptance of a measure which the Argentine Government considers very significant. The statement added that if the United Kingdom makes this decision, it will violate paragraph 4 of the UN resolution which urges the two parties to refrain from decisions which can unilaterally affect the situation while negotiations are underway.

Regarding talks with the United Kingdom, Ambassador Rios told Secretary General Waldheim that even though there is a clear impasse in the negotiations because of the different positions regarding sovereignty, there is still a negotiating atmosphere between the two countries, which seek to overcome the deadlock.

NAVY COMMANDER MASSERA PRAISES RELATIONS WITH PERU

PY250208Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2310 GMT 23 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Lima, 23 Aug--(TELAM-ANSA)--Argentine Navy Commander Emilio Massera today expressed satisfaction with his visit to Peru and his participation in the first session of the Ninth Inter-American Naval Conference.

Just before boarding the plane which brought him back to Buenos Aires at 1500 local time (2000 GMT), Admiral Massera had a short meeting with reporters and stated that he had come to Lima "to say farewell to my comrades because I intend to retire next month." He added: "I have always received praise and affection in Peru, and as an Argentine I want to respond to that affection which we maintain between the two countries."

He also termed very satisfactory the meeting he had this morning with Peruvian President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez, with whom he discussed common subjects. He also praised Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, leader of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance and president of the Constituent Assembly.

Admiral Massera also revealed that President Morales Bermudez has promised to study the possibility of visiting Argentina, although he did not mention the exact date of his visit. Regarding the Beagle Channel conflict between Argentina and Chile, Massera said: "We are working on it, and when I return to Peru to rest when I pass into retirement, we will talk about that subject."

AGRICULTURE UNDER SECRETARY RESIGNS OVER POLICY ISSUE

PY230334Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Aug--Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz is currently studying the resignation of Under Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Economy Carlos Lanusse, who has tendered his resignation for reasons involving "the entire economic policy." This was revealed today by Agriculture and Livestock Secretary Carlos Cadenas Madariaga, who confirmed that Lanusse has tendered his firm resignation even though there have been no official reports in this regard.

Cadenas Madariaga revealed certain aspects of Lanusse's attitude [illegible] today by Radio Belgrano. In this interview Cadenas Madariaga indicated that [illegible] resignation is caused by "general reasons which do not [illegible]."

In the meantime it is believed that Lanusse's resignation has [illegible] by rural exporters over the inadequacy of the exchange rate, according to [illegible] to the Agriculture and Livestock Secretariat.

Speaking of the resignation of the under secretary, Cadenas Madariaga indicated that "Lanusse's concern is over general topics and involves the entire economic policy," adding that "this concern is natural taking into account the development of difficult [illegible] which we are trying to correct." Asked whether he shared Lanusse's concern, Cadenas Madariaga indicated that "Lanusse's concern is shared by the entire country."

With regard to the report that he would tender his resignation out of solidarity with Lanusse, Cadenas Madariaga indicated "I have been appointed secretary of agriculture and livestock to cooperate with the economy minister toward the solution of several problems, among which are those cited by Lanusse, and there is still much to be done."

Cadenas Madariaga went on to acknowledge that "the current situation is difficult for many agricultural and livestock sectors, not only for international, but also domestic reasons." He indicated: "The situation is difficult for some crops and not so difficult for others. In general terms I would say that the agricultural and livestock sector is not getting enough income, but this is true of the nation as a whole, as well."

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH SURINAM

PY2417587 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1450 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Aug (TELAM)--Through Decree No 1,910, the Argentine Government has established diplomatic relations with Surinam and authorized the creation of an embassy in that country. The decree, which was published in the Official Bulletin, states that it is of paramount importance to strengthen relations with both the government and the people of Surinam, as well as to explore and broaden trade possibilities between the two countries through diplomatic action.

BRIEFS

MISSION TO SPAIN--An Argentine mission has left for Europe to participate in a conference on intergovernmental strategies and policies to be held in Spain under UNESCO sponsorship. The delegation is headed by Col Oscar Gregorio Velez, under secretary of information of the Planning Ministry, and includes officials of the presidential office and functionaries of Argentine embassies in Europe. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY]

ENTRE RIOS GOVERNOR RESIGNS--The executive branch has accepted the resignation of Gen Ruben Daniel di Bello as governor of Entre Rios Province. Pablo Federico Javens, provincial justice and education minister, has been temporarily appointed governor. [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 23 Aug 78 p 6 PY]

EGYPTIAN MINISTER ARRIVES--Buenos Aires 24 Aug (TELAM)--'Abd ar-Rahman 'Abd al-Majid, Egypt's minister of planning, arrived here today to take part in the world conference on technical cooperation among developing nations which will begin on Wednesday. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2025 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY]

OPPOSITION SETS DEADLINE FOR CALLING ELECTIONS

PY240250Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 23 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Political parties and fronts of the opposition have given the government 15 days starting from today to set a date for elections in the first half of 1979.

The Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP], the Democratic Alliance of National Revolution [ADRN], the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the Revolutionary Front of the Left [FRI] today issued a joint communique indicating that the suspension of the constitutionalization and democratization process is hindering the attainment of final solutions for social, economic and foreign policy problems which the country is experiencing.

The communique added that only a government with firm popular support can provide conditions conducive to harmony, which is necessary for meeting future contingencies.

The four main opposition fronts which ran in the July elections and obtained the largest percentages of votes indicated that after several joint talks they have decided to extend their electoral deadline to the first half of 1979. They stressed that the decree calling for elections for president, vice president and parliamentarians must be issued within 15 days.

"The extension of the period within which the government must call elections makes it an irreversible deadline which is not subject to any further negotiations," asserted the political communique.

The paper also called for the implementation of the original electoral law and the abrogation of complementary laws and decrees which distort it. It also called for the amendment of Article 158 of the electoral law which prohibits the participation of union leaders and Article 11 which deals with the appointment of the Electoral Court.

The communique went on to add that "the government's proposal to create an electoral commission would merely lead to confusion and mistrust among political parties and people in general, because it would be viewed as another delaying tactic of the government. All we need is a law which would summarize the various proposals made so far."

The communique concluded by stating that the government-proposed political parties law is not feasible from the political point of view and not in line with the constitution.

The joint paper is signed by the FUDP, the ADRN, the PDC and the FRI.

INTERIOR MINISTER REJECTS CALL FOR ELECTIONS

PY250134Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Text] "The democratization of the country does not take into account the passage of time but the supreme interests of the fatherland; therefore I do not believe in deadlines," said Interior Minister Faustino Rico Toro to the press this afternoon.

He said that the right thing to do now is hold a proper election, overcoming shortcomings in laws, electoral registers, and other problems which the opposition parties have noted and criticized.

Rico Toro made these remarks in response to yesterday's petition of opposition parties for Pereda's government to make a call for general elections within 15 days.

Among other things, Rico Toro asked whether the exact date of the elections was more important than the assurance that they will be effective and significant. He said that the attainment of any objective requires an analysis, and at this point it is too early to speak of dates because the main concern should be the efforts the country must make to implement elections of historical significance.

Finally, Rico Toro concluded by stating: "Nothing has been decided about having the coming Cabinet meeting study and approve a decree creating an electoral commission. There is a study underway and more time will be needed.

MILITARY CHIEF PROMISES RETURN TO BARRACKS

PY242036Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1852 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 24 Aug (AFP)--Gen Angel Hugo Salmon, commander in chief of the Bolivian Armed Forces, announced here today that the armed forces will definitely withdraw to their barracks and will no longer intervene in political affairs after the present transitory government period is over.

We want the armed forces to withdraw honorably from politics to their barracks in order to rededicate themselves to their real professional role, he added.

The high-ranking officer also stressed the need for the military to hold dialogs with civilian political leaders in order to seek national unity and harmony.

When referring to a trip to Europe some months ago, the commander of the Bolivian Armed Forces stated that he learned during his tour that some countries on the Pacific were seeking financial support to purchase amazing quantities of high-quality armament.

He added: As far as Bolivia is concerned, we have the necessary weapons to repulse any foreign aggression.

Salmon again stated his concern over the possibility of an armed conflict in the Latin American southern cone as a result of Argentine-Chilean frictions in their disagreement over the Beagle Channel question.

We are aware of the economic situation of the nation, and we have therefore never been in favor of Bolivia entering a senseless armaments race, which would openly contradict our peaceful spirit.

When asked about the possibility of resuming diplomatic relations with Chile, Salmon replied:

I believe that diplomatic relations with Chile should not be resumed as long as the Bolivian claim is not satisfied to its full extent.

After explaining the importance of the maritime claim in Bolivian history, he made an allusion to the 100th anniversary of the War of the Pacific between Chile and the Bolivian-Peruvian Confederation in 1879.

The commander of the armed forces said that Bolivia needs a broad political consensus, leading to unity among Bolivians.

He added: The armed forces favor unity among all Bolivians for the glory of the fatherland.

We are therefore opposed to the participation of officers on active service or in the reserve as candidates in the next general elections to be held in the country, the Bolivian general concluded.

AMBASSADOR OJARA VIEWS ANDEAN PACT, TIES WITH CHILE

PY231943Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Aug 78 PY

[Summary] Ambassador Mario Ojara has referred to the possibility of warlike developments in the southern cone, announced yesterday by the commander in chief of the armed forces. He said that the statement by the high-ranking officer was timely, since the situation is heading toward that possibility.

Mario Ojara, the Bolivian ambassador to Colombia, has arrived in the country to report to the government. In a discussion with newsmen, he also referred to the Andean pact, saying:

[Begin recording] "All integration pacts are subject to constant negotiation. Naturally, each country defends its own interests and the success of such pacts lies in conciliating the interests of all. We are in this stage of trying to satisfy the expectations of the various nations." [end recording]

Ambassador Ojara also commented on the maritime problem. Regarding Bolivian relations with the Chilean Government he said: "Any attempt to resume diplomatic relations with the Chilean Government should seek to further our maritime claims."

He also called the present situation in Latin America difficult, particularly in the southern cone, and he agreed with the remarks made by the commander in chief of the armed forces.

[Begin recording] "The situation in the South Pacific continues to be difficult. I believe he is right in stating that when there are points of disagreement the outcome can never be known. I therefore believe that the exhortation made by the commander in chief of the armed forces is very timely, since he urges us to unite around our great goals, particularly the goal of maritime reintegration." [end recording]

BRIEFS

COCHABAMBA AIR BASE--Air Force Commander Gen Jose Antonio Jempertegui has reported that work on the infrastructure for the mixed air group and on the command office of the Cochabamba Air Force garrison is continuing normally. He announced that 12 Swiss training planes will arrive in the country within the next few days; they are to be used by the cadets of the military aviation school in Santa Cruz de la Sierra. [Text] [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Aug 78 PY]

RECOGNITION OF PEREDA REGIME--The Foreign Ministry has reported that the Australian, Swedish and Danish Governments will continue their diplomatic relations with Bolivia. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Aug 78 PY]

MDB CANDIDATE ADDRESSES PARTY CONVENTION IN BRASILIA

PY241454Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Text] The Brazilian Democratic Movement made a historic decision yesterday selecting Euler Bentes Monteiro as presidential candidate and Senator Raulo Brossard as vice presidential candidate. The nominations were made by the party convention held in Brasilia yesterday when the party's basic program was set aside and the decision to participate in the indirect presidential elections was made.

General Monteiro closed the convention held at the Nereu Ramos hall in the congress building with a 25-minute speech in which he promised political amnesty, implementation of the 1967 constitution, a call for a national constituent assembly and direct elections for every public office at all levels. As for foreign dependency, General Monteiro said the legislation on the entry of foreign capital must be rigorously applied.

The Bandeirantes journalists team recorded general Monteiro's speech.

[Begin recording] The word of order at this time is union to win. [applause] On my behalf and that of my running mate, Senator Paulo Brossard, I thank the MDB colleagues for the confidence placed in us. I ask that all of us, with God's help, will become instrumental in national union so that the election in November will mark the victory of democracy, peace and social justice. [end recording]

That was a portion of the speech by the MDB presidential candidate in which he set down the main objectives of his government should he be elected by the Electoral College on 15 October.

FIGUEIREDO DENIES ARMY SUPPORTS BENTES MONTEIRO

PY241709Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0551 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo, Brasil, 23 Aug (AFP)--Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo, presidential candidate of the official party, stated here today that if he takes office he will enforce a democratic regime if conditions are favorable.

Figueiredo further confirmed having asserted during an informal talk with journalists in Brasilia that Gen Euler Bentes Monteiro is seeking the support of subordinate officers, but that he has only gained 2 percent of this support in the army. He denied rumors that Gen Euler Bentes Monteiro's candidacy for the Brazilian Democratic Movement is supported by a movement of officers, mainly colonels, and said: I know these rumors are false.

Asked if General Monteiro will take office if he wins the presidential elections, Figueiredo answered: I will answer that question with a joke: Only Our Heavenly Father knows the answer.

FOREIGN MINISTER SEES CHANGE FOR RESUMING PARANA TALKS

PY250313Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Aug 78 p 23 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira officially admitted yesterday, for the first time, that the tripartite negotiations on the Parana River could be resumed without Argentina having to comply with the Brazilian demand that it withdraw its May draft proposal. This document prompted Brazil to cancel the meeting of foreign ministers scheduled for early June. "I am not a man with a bad memory," Azeredo said, noting that Brazil has no intention of breaking the "pact of silence" he had verbally concluded with Argentine Ambassador Oscar Camilion in the talks they held at the Foreign Ministry.

With this answer, the foreign minister was sidestepping questions regarding the present status of the negotiations and the possible dates and locations for the resumption of dialog among diplomatic officials and experts of the three countries of the American southern cone.

He said: "Although you newsmen have shown understanding for this agreement, you will no doubt persist with your questions if our silence persists."

In reply to questions as to whether Brazilian-Argentine relations have improved as a result of the frequent visits made to the Foreign Ministry by the Argentine ambassador, Azeredo replied nebulously: "I cannot attend to just one alternative within my viewpoint. If I could..." [sentence as published]

The Brazilian foreign minister disputed insinuations made by the Buenos Aires press to the effect that Brazil is anxiously looking forward to resuming the talks with Argentina and Paraguay.

Futhermore, he denied that the agreement entered into by Itamaraty and San Martin Palace, the Argentine Foreign Ministry, is designed to exclude Paraguay from the process of reconciling the Parana River hydroelectric plants. "Paraguay is actively participating in the process since no satisfactory agreement could be achieved without its participation," he said.

ADMIRAL FRAGA STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH ATLANTIC

PY241/26Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1245 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Text] La Plata, 24 Aug (TELAM)--The conflict with Chile is not merely because of three islands, as some Argentines believe. It is a much more important problem which has to do with world geopolitics and economy, the president of the Argentine Antarctic Institute stated last night. Rear Adm Jorge A. Fraga spoke at the Liberal Arts School on the subject of "the Chilean occupation and its consequences in the South Atlantic."

This issue may have various solutions, but there is one which we cannot evade, and this is the Argentine presence. We cannot handle the situation in Buenos Aires. God willing, future generations will learn the lesson and occupy our territory, he added.

Argentina must hold dominion over the Magellan Strait and national territory in Tierra del Fuego, the Antarctic and the South Atlantic islands, and recover the Malvinas Islands and the other islands, since above everything and because of the national will, Argentina must be the most important country in the South Atlantic, Admiral Fraga continued.

Regarding Chilean claims to our South Atlantic, he stated that Chile has been trying to obtain a presence in the Atlantic for more than a century, and Argentina needs by all means to be a maritime country. Without the sea Argentina will not progress.

Expanding on his idea about the importance of the sea, he specified that anything dealing with the so-called economic area is important. The effectiveness of a 200-mile zone is already under discussion and some countries, such as the USSR, claim it should be extended to 300 miles.

Meanwhile, fishing takes have not increased because of depredation and because of these ideas on the economic area. Argentina has the richest maritime area in the world, almost virgin and unexploited, which motivates the foreign interest in our South Atlantic.

Regarding resources in the area, he stated: Our continental shelf has renewable and nonrenewable elements. We know that there are from 2 to 3 million tons of fish in this privileged area. We have only caught 400,000 tons. Further south is the most important food resource, krill, which brings fleets of as many as 50 vessels every summer to take the product to several countries which are aware of its high food properties.

Regarding the conflict with Chile, he stated that the problem deserves preferential attention. He said: Our country made a mistake in resorting to the British Crown for arbitration. The ruling has allowed Chile to begin pretentious actions over the Antarctic. He then showed an official Chilean map and indicated that Chile, because of its claims over the Antarctic, has six military bases in the area, three of them permanent.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN CONFIDENT OVER URENCO DEAL

PY230354Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 22 Aug 78 p 25 PY

[Text] Brasilia--"We have no reasons to worry," Itamaraty spokesman Luiz Felipe Lampreia said yesterday commenting on the negotiations Brazil has been conducting with the FRG, Great Britain and the Netherlands on concluding specific contracts with Urenco and the International Atomic Energy Agency to guarantee the supply of enriched uranium to the Angra 1 and 2 nuclear plants during the next decade.

According to Lampreia, the Netherlands Government itself has stated time and again that there are no major disagreements to be overcome and that even the Netherlands Parliament has considered the guarantees offered by Brazil to be adequate.

Lampreia said Itamaraty expects to receive a reply this week from the three countries associated within Urenco. He noted that the governments of these countries had sent a proposal to Brazil more than a month ago, and that Brazil made a counterproposal, which is now at the center of the studies. Furthermore, Lampreia said that Brazil is in no hurry since the final negotiations will have to be concluded only by 1983.

YEAR DELAY NOW SEEN FOR ANGRA-1 OPENING

PY240358Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Aug 78 p 1 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia--The Angra 1 plant must begin operating on 15 November 1979 with a 1-year delay in relation to the latest estimate. The first two reactors--Angra 2 and Angra 3--included in the eight items of the Brazilian-FRG agreement will begin functioning, respectively, on 31 May 1984 and 30 November 1985. This report is included in the 1978 national energy balance distributed by the Mines and Energy Ministry. It is possible, however, that the dates scheduled for the latest two reactors may be changed (following the example of what already happened to Angra 1) in the 1979 timetable, which will be released in August 1979.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SEES IMPROVED SITUATION IN BRAZIL

PY240256Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2149 GMT 23 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 23 Aug (AFP)--A spokesman for Amnesty International told the Brasilia newspaper CORREIO BRASILIENSE that the human rights situation in Brasil was improving greatly in recent times. According to Gerald Thomas, who is in charge of Brazilian affairs for Amnesty International, this improvement is the result of the present process of political relaxation and of various measures adopted by the Brazilian Government. However, Amnesty emphasized that Brazilian police still widely practice the use of torture and continue to abduct persons unjustly. According to the paper, there are now 184 political prisoners in Brazil.

MATTHEI ANNOUNCES NEW LAW ON RELATIVES OF MISSING PERSONS

FY2441455Y Santiago Chile Radio Minería Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 Aug 78 FY

[Text] Santiago--The second legislative commission headed by Air Force Commander Fernando Matthei has ended its study of a draft law which speeds up proceedings on the property, inheritance and affairs of relatives of alleged missing persons. The announcement was made by General Matthei. He noted that these new measures will be enforced only after the relatives of these missing persons effectively prove their prior existence and also prove that all actions to find them have been completed.

PINOCHET NOTES IMPROVEMENT IN ARMY SINCE 1973

FY2417055Y Santiago Chile Radio Minería Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 Aug 78 FY

[Excerpt] Santiago--On his fifth anniversary as head of the army, Chilean President Augusto Pinochet has stated that the army has not deviated from the objective for which it was created. He added: We have a better army today than in 1973. Its infrastructure, material and logistics have improved substantially. The balance is 100 percent positive.

REGIME RETURNS 400 INDUSTRIAL FIRMS TO PRIVATE SECTOR

FY2405462Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2334 GMT 23 Aug 78 FY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 23 Aug (AFP)--It was reported here today that the Chilean Government has sold over 400 enterprises to private business in the last 5 years. However, the military government has decided to keep 27 large industrial complexes or services that are considered strategically important. The capital and reserves of the enterprises surpasses $6 billion. The situation is explained in a detailed report prepared by the Production Development Corporation (CORFO), the state organization that 5 years ago controlled most of the industries, banks and some services.

The report released by CORFO President Gen Luis Danus revealed that the state will retain copper deposits, oil, power, steel, and administration of ports and railways. According to CORFO's report, over 400 enterprises have returned to private hands. Of these, 259 had been expropriated by Allende's administration and were returned to their orginal owners. Another 149 enterprises, including CORFO shares in several banks, were sold to private business by bids. The enterprises sold were worth $543 million and over 90 percent of them were bought by local investors.

CORFO's report added that another 26 enterprises worth $200 million will be placed into private hands.

RADICAL PARTY HEAD URGES END TO RESTRICTIONS

FY2500585Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2155 GMT 24 Aug 78 FY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 24 Aug (TELAM-EFE)--In a report published by the weekly QUE PASA, Luis Bossay Leiva, a former state minister and Social Democratic senator in Chile, stated that no reasonably well-informed person can deny that the country is undergoing a very serious institutional crisis. The former president of the radical party, proscribed by the Pinochet government, demanded that the remaning restrictions on public liberties, freedom of expression, nocturnal movements and freedom of assembly be abolished by the government. This does not mean a lack of recognition that "there has been an improvement regarding human rights during the regime's recent past." Finally, he emphasized with alarm that there is an increasing isolation of the country and a loss of prestige, because Chile has strayed from its traditional democratic system.

FARC COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCES GUERRILLA GROUPS' MERGER

PA250225Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1235 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 24 Aug (AFP)--According to a clandestine communique issued by the rebel pro-Soviet Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC], the unification of the Colombian guerrillas has begun here.

Bulletin No 70 of RESISTENCIA, the FARC organ, announces the merging of the group with the pro-Castro National Liberation Army [ELN] in its editorial by Pedro Antonio Marin (alias Tiro Fijo), the FARC's legendary founder and leader.

It reveals that Tarsicio Guaracas, another guerrilla leader, who had just spent 59 months in prison, has rejoined the armed struggle and is commanding one of the new fronts that the two groups have created.

After noting that the new movement will now be called "FARC Plus People Equals Victory," the newspaper, anonymously distributed by mail, launches a virulent attack against the Maoist Communist Party of Colombia, describing it as a traitor to the working class and the people.

The paper recalled that over the past few weeks, there was a rumor among military circles that Tiro Fijo had reappeared and that he was reportedly leading the FARC's seventh front in southeast Colombia.

The execution of 12 peasants, accused of being army informants, and the ambush of a military patrol in which six enlisted men were killed marked the intensification of guerrilla activity in the country. These attacks have been attributed to the FARC.

Finally, it was learned here that an alleged FARC contact was captured by the army on Wednesday as he contacted rebels in Guajira Department in northern Colombia.

FAVORABLE SITUATION FORESEEN FOR COFFEE GROWERS

PA231635Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Aug 78 PA

[Text] The Colombian coffee growers can breathe a little easier for at least 1 more year as a result of the important agreement achieved by the directors of the Latin American coffee policy. According to the Bogota agreement, the Latin American coffee-producing countries have pledged to maintain profitable coffee prices at the international level but in such a way that consumption will not be harmed.

In view of this situation, a purchase price higher than 7,300 pesos a load [carga] will be maintained for the national coffee producers. Any reduction in this price is ruled out. Stable prices with a trend toward increases is guaranteed for the forthcoming abundant harvest that will begin in a few weeks. The good international prices will permit the Coffee Growers Federation the prompt (?sale) of the entire national coffee harvest.

PERUVIAN, VENEZUELAN MINISTERS DISCUSS ANDEAN PACT

PA241105Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0048 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 23 Aug (AFP)--The Andean pact and Peru's political situation were the principal subjects discussed this afternoon by the foreign ministers of Venezuela and Peru, Simon Alberto Consalvi and Jose de la Puente. This was confirmed by the Peruvian foreign minister after the 1-hour meeting. The Venezuelan foreign minister later went to the municipal building where he was proclaimed an illustrious guest of Lima.

Foreign Minister de la Puente told AFP that he and his Venezuelan colleague thoroughly analyzed the Bogota declaration which the presidents of the Andean countries recently signed. They also discussed methods of fulfilling the recommendation for quick implementation of industrial programs contained in the Bogota declaration. The foreign minister added that they also discussed the question of human rights and revealed that Consalvi gave him a draft of an Andean declaration of human rights that could be made public in a forthcoming conference of subregional ministers during a UN General Assembly meeting.

He added that they also discussed specific matters of Peruvian-Venezuelan relations. He said that he gave Consalvi a general review of the Peruvian situation in which he expressed an interest. He added that he will complete the briefing at a reception for his colleague. At the reception, Consalvi will receive Peru's highest decoration, the Order of the Sun of Peru. The Peruvian foreign minister has invited members of the Constituent Assembly from different parties and a large number of intellectuals, including Mario Vargas Llosa, so that Consalvi can obtain a broader view of the political situation.

De La Puente on Human Rights

PY241711Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Text] Peruvian Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente Radbill stated last night that there is an open contradiction between a policy of defending human rights and (?evident) trade protectionism.

He made this remark during a ceremony held at the Torre Tagle Palace, where he decorated Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi, who is in Lima on an official visit, with the Grand Cross of the Order of the Peruvian Sun.

De la Puente said that the industrialized nations cannot ignore (?this situation), in view of the fact that the developing nations are suffering serious discrimination imposed by these countries.

Consalvi Meets With Morales

PY250222Y Lima Radio Union in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Aug 78 PY

[Text] The traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation between Peru and Venezuela were reasserted today during a meeting between President Morales Bermudez and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi. The meeting was held at the president's office at government house, and President Morales Bermudez was accompanied by Peruvian Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente Radbill.

During the meeting, Consalvi presented President Morales Bermudez with a collection of books, among which were some dealing with Inca architecture, published by the Venezuelan Central University.

The president of the Constituent Assembly, Raul Haya de la Torre, was also visited by the Venezuelan foreign minister today. He also received a visit from the Vatican ambassador.

Joint Communique Issued

PY250345Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Aug 78 PY

[Summary] A joint communique was signed in Lima today by the foreign ministers of Peru and Venezuela, Jose de la Puente Radmill and Simon Alberto Consalvi. The document emphasizes the excellent relations between the two countries and the strong historical ties uniting Peru and Venezuela.

MINING AGITATION BLAMED ON ULTRALEFT LEGISLATORS

PY241606Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The country is aware that the problem of the miners is being kept alive more by political agitators than by labor demands. It is no secret that the ultraleftist Constituent Assembly members are continuing their agitation to make the strike more serious.

There are some individuals in the agitators' leadership who have absolutely nothing to do with work in the mines because they were fired more than a year ago, and others who are simply hired advisers for the unions, i.e., desk-bound miners [words indistinct].

Under its policy of dialog with workers and businessmen, the government has formulas for a solution that would certainly have been accepted by the workers if union leadership had not applied pressure. For example, [words indistinct] 4-year period with social benefits and the firms' promise to create other work sources.

But this is not enough for the agitation leaders. They insist on sabotaging production, on reducing the possibilities of reaping foreign exchange, on citing instances of unpaid workers and on creating tension which they (?can then put to use).

To carry out these actions they not only resort to demagogy but also to premeditated farce and [word indistinct]. For example, [words indistinct] a group of miners with the pretext that their presence was necessary or that they would be received by the highest officials.

They speak everything but the truth, and the truth is that the solution to the miners problem is being studied and it will be resolved through established legal channels.

Pressure will be useless because the government has only one code of conduct: resolving the problems with justice. The measures for a solution (?which have already been adopted) can now be noted [words indistinct] defend production and guarantee normal work attendance.

If all the workers would consider this, they would not be interested in being used as instruments of agitation by some constituent members of the ultraleft.

LA CRONICA Commentary Cited

PA210213Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2214 GMT 20 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 20 Aug (EFE)--The Peruvian military government today accused extreme leftist deputies of starting strikes and inciting the workers against the authorities. In a long article entitled "Constituent Assembly Representatives [constituyentes] or Agitators?" the official newspaper LA CRONICA published a series of photographs showing the actions of several assembly representatives at labor demonstrations. The paper said that the deputies of the Maoist Popular Democratic Unity [UDP] and the Trotskyite, Worker, Peasant, Student and People's Front [FOCEP] are "arousing the spirits of and pushing the workers into undertaking reckless actions of force."

The UDP has 4 deputies in the Constituent Assembly and the FOCEP has 15. LA CRONICA accused those groups of disrupting the establishment of a union at Southern Peru Copper Corporation's copper mine in Cuajone. The paper explained that only 350 workers voted in the union leadership elections but that 2,000 votes were cast.

Meanwhile, Energy and Mines Minister Gen Juan Sanchez said yesterday that some Constituent Assembly representatives are overstepping the bounds of the rights guaranteed by their parliamentary immunity. Sanchez called on the representatives to concentrate on drafting a new constitution so that general elections can be held. He recalled Prime Minister Gen Oscar Molina's statement concerning the possibility of holding presidential and parliamentary elections as soon as the assembly approves the Peruvian Constitution.

Yesterday, the Constituent Assembly completed debate on 50 of the 51 articles of the internal regulations. A plenary meeting will be held on Tuesday, 22 August, to discuss the controversial Article 3, which refers to the goals and objectives of the assembly. The majority and minority blocs of the multiparty commission that drafted the article have issued position papers but the article provoked bitter debate and was therefore discussed last.

The armed forces have ruled Peru since October 1968, when they overthrew elected President Fernando Belaunde Terry. Afterward, reformist Gen Juan Velasco took power until August 1975, when he was replaced by President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez.

Miners' Demonstration

PA242352Y Paris AFP in English 2030 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Lima, Aug 24, (AFP)--Several thousand striking miners and metalworkers demonstrated in central Lima today, demanding the withdrawal of the armed forces from the mines.

A large number of women joined the protestors, who also demanded salary increases, the rehiring of 320 strikers fired during the July 1977 labor unrest and the cancellation of two allegedly anti-worker decrees.

Demonstrators accused security forces of brutally [word indistinct] the march of some 12,000 miners toward Lima recently.

On Monday evening, the government decreed a state of emergency and suspended constitutional guarantees in lead, zinc, iron and copper mines paralyzed since Aug 4 by the strike. The army moved in a short time later to take control of installations.

MORALES GREETS CEAUSESCU ON ROMANIAN LIBERATION DAY

PY241703Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY

[Text] In the name of the Peruvian population and the Revolutionary Government of the Armed Forces, President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez sent a cordial message of congratulations to the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, on that country's liberation day.

He also sent his cordial congratulations to Romania's ambassador in Peru, Ion Comanescu.

FORMER NEWSPAPER OWNERS PROTEST EXPROPRIATION

PA241547Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0915 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 24 Aug, (EFE)--For the first time since the communications media were expropriated, the former owners of seven Peruvian newspapers signed a document on Wednesday to protest the action. It was made public in Lima and was signed by 12 stockholders of the papers expropriated during Gen Juan Velasco's administration. The signers include Manuel Ulloa, former owner of EXPRESO and EXTRA, and Alejandro and Auerlio Miro Quesada, former owners of EL COMERCIO, the country's second oldest newspaper. Representatives of AFICION, CORREO, OJO, LA PRENSA and ULTIMA HORA also signed the document.

The document criticized the expropriation of the newspapers and labeled it a violation of the constitution and the press law issued in July by the present government. The signers said that the press law opposes freedom of the press and association and affects the inviolability of ownership, both physical as well as intellectual. [as received] They also stated that the expropriation of their newspapers cannot be considered legally complete because the necessary requirements have not been fulfilled.

The unfulfilled conditions include the facts that the measure did not constitute a public service, that the properties were not justly appraised and that a just price was not subsequently paid. They said that the press law violates articles 17 and 27 of the universal human rights declaration and Article 4 of the American Declaration on the Rights of Man of the OAS. However, they also pointed out improvements in the new press laws since General Velasco assumed power in 1968. They added that the expropriations were made to transfer the newspapers to popular organizations but that they were in fact "placed in the hands of committees formed mostly by infiltrated communist agents."

According to the former owners, the expropriation was made for the "supposed benefit of nonexistent recipients to disguise a confiscation." They announced their intention to take action through the courts to demand just compensation.

BRIEFS

ARGENTINE AIR FORCE VISITOR--Argentine Air Force Chief of Staff Maj Gen Omar Domingo Ruben Graffigna arrived in Lima yesterday for an official visit. [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY]

ANDEAN LOAN AUTHORIZED--The government has approved the basic contract for $10 million granted by the Andean Development Corporation and the Financial Corporation for Development. The loan will be used to finance integration projects to be implemented within the country. [Text] [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Aug 78 PY]

LOPEZ-PORTILLO SPEAKS AT REGIONAL DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

PA241651Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Text] The president of Mexico has received the delegates to the armaments board. Disarmament and peace are merely a path to satisfying the needs of nations, the Mexican president said. We have a right to continue to use the fundamental weapon of peace, the word, until it is converted into fact. Mexican President Lopez-Portillo said before the delegates to the preliminary meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean who visited him at Los Pinos, the president's house in the Mexican capital. Disarmament and (?peace) will not suffice since they are merely an avenue, not an end, and our responsibility does not end with disarming, but with focusing our efforts on satisfying the obvious priorities of our peoples, the Mexican chief executive added.

The Mexican foreign minister introduced the participants in the conference and said that in their effort to achieve disarmament and peace, the countries represented have shown their willingness to create a mechanism that will operate separately from the Organization of American States so that no erroneous interpretations will exist. The Mexican foreign minister reiterated the Mexican diplomatic position regarding the peaceful resolution of problems.

Carlos Ortiz Rozas, chief delegate to the Geneva disarmament conference and Argentine ambassador to the United Nations on disarmament matters, noted that his presence in Mexico responds to Mexico's initiative to exchange ideas on the possible limitation of conventional armaments in Latin America. But beyond this initiative, Ortiz Rozas said, our presence here can very well be interpreted as a triumph or a tribute, an act of homage to the Latin American nation that has always been at the vanguard of our region and the entire world in promoting the cause of disarmament and the cause of our nations' economic and social development. The Argentine ambassador remarked that we are convinced that we will (?establish) consultation methods that will give additional impetus to the cause of disarmament in Latin America.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Peruvian ambassador to the OAS stressed that the disarmament conference follows a policy that is deeply rooted in Mexico: a tenacious, permanent and unyielding struggle to transform the reality of matters, to transform the unjust and (?unequal) structures of the entire world.

POLITICIAN'S LAND CONFISCATED, DISTRIBUTED AMONG FARMERS

PA231702Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2340 GMT 22 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Aug (EFE)--The government today confiscated the land of a leading politician and ordered that it be distributed among peasants in the second surprise action of this type in less than a week. The new government move concerns Jesus Robles Martinez, former director of the Urbank Bank in San Luis Potosi State in central Mexico. A presidential resolution published in the official daily negates the politician's tactic of dividing his lands in order to give the impression that they were several "small properties" which are legal. The resolution affects 4,377 hectares, which the government ordered to be delivered to peasants of the El Desengano Ejido for the expansion of its production unit in the municipality of Ciudad Valles.

Last Friday, the government confiscated most of La Gargaleote property owned by Gonzalo N. Santos, a general and a politician also from San Luis Potosi State. Both land holdings had already been denounced by peasant unions, which in the last few weeks had repeatedly requested that they be divided among farmers. Robles Martinez, who has held several government posts, is very influential in the teachers union, one of the largest in the nation.

FSLN COMMANDOS ARRIVE IN PANAMA, INTERVIEWED BY NAVAL TV

PA241912 [Editorial Report PA] Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish at 1818 GMT on 24 August began a live broadcast from the Tocumen International Airport in Panama City on the arrival of the Venezuelan Air Force Hercules and the Panamanian planes carrying the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) guerrillas, released prisoners and others from Nicaragua to Panama.

The announcer said that the Venezuelan plane landed at 1812 GMT and taxied to the Panamanian Air Force terminal at the airport to which the Air Panama plane had also taxied. The announcer then said that Lt Col Manuel Antonio Noriega, head of security (G-2) of the Panamanian National Guard, arrived at the airport. After announcing that the two planes carrying the guerrillas had not stopped at the normal passenger deplaning area, the domestic service announcer said that he was halting live coverage at Tocumen Airport until he could get to the Panamanian Air Force terminal.

At 1824 GMT, Panama City Radio Exitosa, in network with the Costa Rican station San Jose Radio Monumental, began a live broadcast from Tocumen International Airport. However, after only approximately 4 minutes, the Radio Exitosa announcer said that no newsmen other than a reporter from Panama City Televisora National and a reporter from the Panama City newspaper CRITICA were allowed to see the guerrillas at the Panamanian Air Force terminal. At 1828 GMT, Radio Exitosa and Radio Monumental ended their network broadcast.

At 1854 GMT, Panama City Domestic Service resumed its live broadcast from Tocumen Airport, with the announcer reporting that no interviews were permitted for security reasons and that a busload of Sandinists were departing the airport aboard buses for an undisclosed destination. The announcer described the cheers of the crowd at the airport greeting the Sandinists and the raising of clenched fists into the air by members of the crowd. The Panama City Domestic Service announcer then said that some of the Sandinists are going on to Venezuela and that their plane is being refueled for the remainder of the flight aboard the Venezuelan Air Force plane.

Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish at 2112 GMT on 24 August carries a 17-minute videotaped interview conducted by Mario Velasquez with FSLN commando leaders known as Cero and Dos and one of the prisoners released by the Nicaraguan Government. The interview was taped at Tocumen International Airport in Panama City shortly after the arrival of the FSLN commando group, prisoners released in exchange for hostages held in Managua's National Palace and the mediators.

Cero said the entire group wants to stay in Panama. Velasquez remarks that Panamanian authorities have already agreed to that request. Velasquez asks Dos about the group's immediate plans, to which she replies that they are to return to Nicaragua and continue the struggle which is growing stronger. Velasquez asks Cero about charges that the Sandinists are financed by Cuba. Cero terms "foolish" the remarks made by the Nicaraguan foreign minister that Cuba is financing the group's activities. He insists that the Sandinists are intelligent and capable of acting on their own. Regarding the group's political orientation, he says that it follows the Sandinists' nationalist ideas, and will work with any "honest" national sector.

The Sandinists know they cannot liberate Nicaragua alone and they seek everyone's support and cooperation, he points out. Asked about his plans, Cero states: "To rest." Commander Cero says his true name is Eden Pastora and that he studied medicine for 4 years.

Cero is asked why all the Sandinists decided to stay in Panama and not continue on to Venezuela as some media had reported they might. Cero says the reason may be that Panama is closer to Nicaragua. He then thanks Panamanian Chief of Government Omar Torrijos and the Panamanian people, remarking that the airport reception has been very encouraging. He also thanks Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

SANDINISTS REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM IN PANAMA

PA242344Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2324 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Excerpt] Panama City, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The Panamanian Foreign Affairs Ministry this afternoon officially reported that all the members of the Sandinist commando unit and the prisoners released by the Nicaraguan Government who arrived in Panama have requested political asylum.

The Sandinists thanked the Venezuelan Government for its offer of asylum which they declined because the entire group decided to stay in Panama.

The Panamanian Foreign Affairs Ministry also reported that the guerrillas as well as the prisoners, diplomats and church officials are all in good condition.

TORRIJOS ADDRESSES TREATY IMPLEMENTATION GROUPS

PA240153Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1549 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Speech by Panamanian Chief of Government Brig Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera at ceremony held at Justo Arosemena Palace in Panama City for installation of work groups that will implement Panama Canal treaties--live]

[Text] Gentlemen representatives of the various civic and professional organizations of this country: Today we are beginning perhaps the most difficult stage in the process of consolidating our sovereignty over the Canal Zone's 1,442 square kilometers. I say the most difficult because this is the stage in which we must show the world that Panama is sufficiently responsible and capable to control as efficiently as at present, or even better, the traffic through this 50-mile strategic canal connecting the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

Now that the stages of negotiation, ratification and approval of the treaties are over, we are left with the domestic stage, the most difficult one. This is a stage in which no Panamanian with a profound sense of the fatherland can refuse to cooperate, because it represents a struggle in which no one can claim the right to [word indistinct]. This is the sum total of our conquests, the sum total of a generation-to-generation struggle which made possible the signing of the treaties that were ratified on 16 June in Panama.

The destiny and life of a nation involves great tasks. We have been entrusted with structuring its form since we must organize it to consolidate our sovereignty and the annexation of those square kilometers to the country's economic geography and dignity. [sentence as heard]

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to those who, without imposing any conditions on the country, are present here, setting an example for the future generations, showing that this generation of Panamanians is not afraid and does not shy away from the great tasks and challenges posed by the country's development.

In this simple but solemn manner I declare this meeting closed, marking the beginning of the stage in which we shall be able to tell the world that Panama is a country with sufficient technical, human and patriotic capability to operate this strategic canal in an even better manner than is currently being done. Thank you very much. (applause)

LIBERAL, AGRARIAN PARTIES OUTLINE POSITIONS AT MEETING

PA250215Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 24 Aug 78 pp 1, 14 PA

[Text] An official spokesmen of the National Liberal Party has voiced regret that other Panamanian groups have not yet appeared at the high-level meeting between representatives of the national government and political parties.

The liberals also remained opposed to granting extraordinary powers to any one person at the constitutional level.

This and other issues arose during the political dialog which, for the first time in Panamanian history, allowed the ideological political sectors that form Panama's partisan mosaic to negotiate together.

CRITICA determined that all of the representatives attending the historic meeting agreed on the need to organize ideological parties and not parties of personalities or parties that depend on a checkbook to subsist. They thereby rejected the old method by which the wealthiest person became leader of the party.

Another interesting issue on which there was agreement concerned the free nomination of candidates to popular elective posts.

The Agrarian Labor Party [Partido Laborista Agrario] pointed to the need to abolish the decrees and laws that currently obstruct democratic procedures. For this purpose it was requested that law 43 of 1953, a clearly fascist and antiliberal law, be abolished.

Drs Romulo Escobar Bethancourt and Aristides Royo attended as representatives of the revolutionary government. The both stressed that General Torrijos had reiterated the government's desire to conduct intensive dialogs to eventually formulate the law regulating the activities of political parties and guaranteeing absolute freedom in expressing all opinions.

BRIEFS

NEW PLANNING OFFICE--The Revolutionary Government has just established through the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry the Office of Institutional Planning and Development, which is aimed at strengthening the Panamanian public sector. The office will be headed by Jorge Marengo, whose duties will include efforts to enforce the implementation of the national development plan. The office will have central offices, sectorial coordination committees and units in the various institutions. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Aug 78 PA]

EL SALVADOR

SWEDISH BUSINESSMAN RELEASED BY FARN GUERRILLAS

Gw2308349Y Paris AFP in English 0735 GMT 25 Aug 78 OW

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Aug (AFP)--The kidnapped manager of Sweden's Ericsson telephone company branch in El Salvador, Kjell Bjork, was released yesterday, the Swedish ambassador announced. Six armed men of the Armed Forces of National Resistence (FARN) abducted Mr Bjork, 37, on August 14 as he left his office here.

As a condition for releasing him, the FARN demanded that several of its political declarations be published by newspapers in Venezuela, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Sweden and Japan. Most newspapers agreed, except those in El Salvador, which were forbidden to publish the declarations by the government on the grounds that publication would be contrary to laws against subversion. Nevertheless, the Ericsson company paid for censored blank spaces which appeared in local newspapers instead of the declarations.

NICARAGUA

SIEGE AT NATIONAL PALACE OVER; GUERRILLAS DEPART

Sandinists Leave

PA2416477 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1635 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--The two planes flying to Caracas and Panama with about 70 released political prisoners and the Sandinist guerrillas which held thousands [as received] of hostages at Managua's National Palace, took off from here this morning at 1030.

Prisoners Said Killed

PA2413566 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1325 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 24 Aug (ACAN-EFE)--Commander Dos, who in the end turned out to be the only woman in the guerrilla group which seized the Managua National Palace on Tuesday, revealed that it has been established that 18 or 20 of the Sandinist prisoners have not been found. The female guerrilla, who is only 22 years old, told ACAN-EFE correspondent Filadelfo Martinez, one of the hostages of the Sandinist cell which carried out the attack against the Nicaraguan Government, that "those prisoners who were to have traveled to Mexico have been assassinated by the dictatorship." She added that the political prisoners and the Sandinists who will leave Nicaragua for Panama, Mexico and Venezuela, in accordance with the distribution plan, will total 60 or 65.

Opposition Calls For Strike

PA2416387 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1623 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 24 Aug (LATIN)--The "Broad Opposition Front" issued a communique today calling a national strike starting tomorrow, "which will not end until the fall of the regime." The communique says that the front seeks "the establishment of a pluralist and democratic national government whose bases have already been set in the 16-point document." This document specifies the detailed manner in which the proposed national government would operate. The government's aim would be to call free elections for the majority to elect a government.

Las Mercedes Airport Reopened

PA2400014Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2153 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 24 Aug (LATIN)--Operations at Las Mercedes International Airport returned to normal today after two planes left for Panama carrying the political prisoners released by the government and the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) guerrillas who held deputies and government officials hostage in the National Palace.

Somoza Addresses Nation

PA2421134Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2018 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Press conference held by Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza with national and international newsmen at the conference hall of the presidential press and information office in Managua, monitored from San Jose Reloj live relay]

[Text] Fellow citizens. It is with deep regret and sorrow that I appear before the Nicaraguan people to report on the terrorist attack carried out by the criminals of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] at noon on 22 August.

As is known by all citizens, while the Chamber of Deputies--the legislative branch--was holding a session in the National Palace, they were criminally attacked by approximately 20 armed terrorists who, firing indiscriminately, without respect for those citizens who go to those offices daily to perform their work caused the death of innocent victims, killed members of our National Guard who were serving as policemen to maintain order, and kidnaped and took hostage the members of the Chamber of Deputies, both of the Nationalist Liberal Party and Conservative Party and minister and vice minister of government, together with more than 500 government employees and thousands of innocent citizens who go to the National Palace to conduct their work for the government.

Gathering patience, tolerance, prudence and equanimity, I assembled the Council of Ministers and assumed responsibility for resolving the situation created by these enemies of order and peace. In analyzing the abnormal situation, consideration was given to the danger facing the persons involved, including men, women, and defenseless children. I dismissed, together with members of the National Guard General Staff, any rescue attempt by force, which, had it been carried out, would have resulted in the defeat and punishment of the terrorists, but would have had as a consequence the loss of hundreds of innocent lives at the hands of the terrorists before we could have released the hostages.

In view of this situation and to avoid any more bloodshed, we decided to begin negotiations with the terrorists and cancel any possible rescue operation. The demands made by the terrorists, unacceptable from the beginning, with brief and fatal deadlines, including threats to kill the hostages and requests for exorbitant sums of money exceeding that available at the time, constituted a somber picture which I had to face as chief of state and as a man of humanitarian and Christian feelings.

Aware of such a terrifying alternative, I agreed to the terrorists' demands to have the most excellent and reverend bishops and ambassadors of Costa Rica and Panama serve as mediators. After repeated efforts to solve disagreements and opposite positions and with the invaluable contribution of the negotiators, we reached a solution to this thorny problem, this hard and sensitive problem that dramatically threatened to cause more loss of Nicaraguan lives and the shedding of Nicaraguan blood.

For since it was necessary to guarantee the departure of the terrorists from the country and release all of the Sandinist prisoners in the custody of authorities as requested by the terrorists. It became necessary to publish an ignominious document in all communications media and deliver $500 million [as heard] as ransom for the hostages' release from the National Palace. The acts of cruelty by the terrorists during this coordinated attack were notorious. They included the sham execution of hostages, the denial of medical attention to the wounded who were bleeding for many hours, keeping a group of citizens, including all the deputies, strongly bound, selecting a group of hostages and threatening to kill them, forming human trenches, putting the hostages in front of windows and doors in order to hide behind them, causing women, including pregnant ones, sick people and children to suffer anxiety, and not permitting them to be released quickly, as had been requested.

I hope that the noble and generous, sensitive and humanitarian Nicaraguan people will understand why I acted as I did. I have been guided by the purpose of saving human lives and by the best motivations of peace and harmony and by my mandatory obligation as chief of state to secure the tranquillity of the entire republic.

I would also like to acknowledge the exemplary behavior of government employees and citizens who were held in the National Palace as hostages, who with their calm attitude contributed to the successful outcome of the negotiations for their release. In a special manner I express my deep appreciation to the Nicaraguan National Guard for their responsible, professional attitude, which at all times demonstrated [illegible] balance in the face of such a delicate situation and their adherence to the [illegible] principles which have guided their institutional life. At the sacrifice of their own lives, without rancor, hate or desire of vengeance, they reacted in a dignified, disciplined manner which prevented the loss of valuable human lives, both civilian and military, thus dignifying and ennobling our National Guard and guaranteeing peace and national order.

Now the Nicaraguan people receive another demonstration of the [illegible] of the terrorist elements who do not care about killing innocent persons, be they men, women or children, as long as they achieve their obscure purposes which are none other than to cause chaos and destroy our democratic system in order to [illegible] the establishment of a communist government. It is sad to recognize [illegible], but we must face it with integrity and courage, taking all the precautionary measures [illegible] the recurrence of situations as painful as those we have experienced on [illegible].

I want to publicly express my deepest feeling of sorrow for the military men and civilians who were slain by the bloody bullets of international communism. Also, I want the people to know that as statesman and president of the republic I could not take to the precipice the hundreds of Nicaraguans who were in the [illegible] and who were victims of the criminal attack.

I publicly express my appreciation to the representatives of the church, illustrious and Most Reverend Msgr Manuel Salazar y Espinoza, president of the episcopal conference; Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo, archbishop of Managua; and Msgr Leovigildo Lopez Fitoria bishop of Granada; and the most excellent ambassadors of Panama, Don Carlos Loyd; of Costa Rica, Don Virgilio Etcheverry Ugande, and the honorable [illegible] charge d'affaires of Venezuela, [name indistinct] and to the illustrious governments which with their timely cooperation permitted us to overcome this crisis. Let history judge my action as chief of state, because I am convinced that I did what in justice was required in those circumstances. Thank you very much. [applause]

[Question in English] [Words indistinct] what [illegible]

[Answer] Do you want me to answer you in English or Spanish? [Words indistinct] in English] My answer is very academic. We have a Constitution, and I ought to comply with the Constitution. That is the reason.

[Question] Good afternoon, Mr President. My name is Espinosa, from Radio Managua. I am one of the (?28) newsmen who were held hostage by the Sandinists. Mr President, first I want to publicly thank you for the determined manner in which you handled the crisis. You conducted yourself as a man who truly respects human rights. The world is now aware that you truly respect and love us. [applause] Mr President, the cowardice of those who hide behind hostages goes so far as to pretend that they are the strong ones by pointing firearms at innocent women, children and old men and forcing the congressmen--as they in fact did--to fall on their knees and crawl. They also pushed them with their rifle butts. This attitude, Mr President, filled us with horror, as we suffered this experience. Therefore, I cannot find words to express my appreciation and gratitude for the manner in which you have solved this. I would also like to ask you a question: Following the public announcement of the communiques issued by these criminal Sandinists, several points were brought up. I would like to know what will happen now to the political organisations such as the Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, other groups, [words indistinct], those of big capital, who were (?scorned) by the communists and those who have supported and continue to support international communism.

[Answer] Well, actually, I do not know what their future situation will be. The best thing would be to ask them how they are going to act now when those whom they aided have rejected them. [applause]

[Question] Good afternoon, Mr President, my name is Alex Caldera Escobar, from the [name indistinct] newscast. Mr President, after the terrible ordeal experienced by the country, which--thanks to the prudent actions followed by the government you head and the army that you command--did not turn into a genuine tragedy resulting in more bloodshed, and after listening to and reading the document published by the Sandinist front in which they clearly point out that what they want for Nicaragua is a so-called democratic people's government--and we know what type of government that is--do you blieve, Mr President, that governments which claim to be democratic and defenders of human rights, while also claiming friendship with the Nicaraguan Government, are going to continue giving aid to these kind of people who have made their goals quite evident?

[Answer] Well, if these governments analyze similar situations which certain individuals could exploit, I imagine they will not do so because they would not like to have private homes or congress raided. I guess not because this is the democratic system which we [word indistinct].

[Question in English] Could you tell us, in English, if you have the information available regarding the number of guerillas actually...[2-minute station interruption]

[Answer] That is very debatable now. These men were in prison charged with assault, murder, kidnaping, robbery and so forth. So whether these are political prisoners is something that can be debated.

[Question] Mr President, in spite of what has happened, everything always yields some benefit. We have gained a great experience. From this experience, I find that the political parties in the democratic administration already know who they are, where they are and who are against them. Is this not the opportune moment for the political parties to seek a dialog with the government, for some representative to bring them together to talk? What Nicaragua needs is to talk and understand itself in order to better organize itself.

[Answer] I have always felt that public debate is the way to reach solutions. Such public debate can be described as talk, dialog, or even debate. I believe that in Nicaragua debate must be conducted in the form and level desired by Nicaraguans to carry out orderly development of our institutional government. [applause]

[Question] [Words indistinct] your support in the past. I understand this has now changed. Could you give us your opinion on this?

[Answer in English] I am a politician and I recognize that every administration has different attitudes. Therefore, I do not consider a change of attitude in the government of the United States a betrayal. Therefore, we both have to adjust to our new relations.

[Question in English] Do you consider this the end of something or the beginning?

[Answer in English] I think that this is the continuation of a problem that the Nicaraguan Government has had since Castro came to power in 1959. Since then this has been (?a problem for all) of Latin America.

[Question] [Word indistinct] political of Nicaragua, once these events have taken place in this country?

[Answer] Well, you are asking me for political reorganization. I think that Nicaragua has always been politically organized. Therefore, these men do not require something special, going beyond our traditional system of solving problems.

[Question] Mr President, is it possible to establish any parallel between the Cuba of 1958, 1959 and today's Nicaragua?

[Answer] You cannot establish a parallel because the peoples are very different. We could identify, let us say, a point of reference. For example, when an offensive was launched to turn Cuba communist, the per capita income in Cuba was more or less the same as in Nicaragua.

[Question in English] [Words indistinct] a bitterness of the National Guardsmen expressing that the negotiations were unfair. Do you think that this type of feeling could jeopardize the control and security of the National Guard in Nicaragua?

[Answer] If I thought the National Guard of Nicaragua were a deliberating army, this could have repercussions. But the National Guard of Nicaragua is an army that obeys the Constitution and is nondeliberating, although we listen to the opinions of officers as a guide.

[Question] Nicaraguans massed at the roadside to the airport. They more than sympathized and supported the Sandinists' triumph made possible by your decision. Does this behavior represent for Nicaragua any [word indistinct] trend?

[Answer] Yes, I think we Nicaraguans must not close our eyes to the world's realities. If countries such as Italy and France are debating ideologies, in the future we Nicaraguans will not be excluded from experiencing a similar situation here in Nicaragua.

[Question] Mr President, the largest kidnaping in history, the most important in view of the number of hostages, has just occurred in Nicaragua. This has been happening uninterruptedly in Nicaragua for many years. If Nicaragua has a democratic and just regime, to what do you attribute so much popular discontent?

[Answer] I can give you many answers. I will answer by explaining how the Sandinist movement was born. General Sandino was a full-fledged general who (?joined) the liberal revolution when peace came to Nicaragua and elections were held under the watchful eyes of the North Americans. He left the forces of General (Volta) and decided to fight, thinking that he could confront the North American nation. He began promoting resistance in Latin America against U.S. imperialism. That symbol nowadays has been used by the communists, who have turned it into a banner of nationalism. This banner of nationalism was founded as an effective movement by Carlos Fonseca Amador.

From then it has received international cooperation of communist forces so that this movement (?could gain ground) in Nicaragua and achieve what it did. That is why this movement has the support of the Cuban Government.

[Question] What has just happened had been building up since 1959. Do you think that this revolutionary struggle may escalate and, if so, what steps do you plan to take to prevent it?

[Answer] They staged this particular action to rescue their people who had been legally imprisoned. Therefore, we can say that they can be counted among people who are, will be ready to commit violent actions in Nicaragua and, therefore, will not hesitate at implementing [word indistinct].

[Question] Mr President, my question is, first, did foreign experts--and from what countries--counsel the Nicaraguan Government on matters of security and in the steps to be taken regarding the Sandinists?

[Answer] No.

[Question] [Words indistinct] Noticiero of Radio Continental. Mr President, a general consensus among our colleagues leads us to conclude that the Sandinist front decided to storm the Congress and occupy it because they are practically wiped out and that they owe this amount of money to Venezuela, Panama, and Costa Rica and that for this reason they needed those $10 million in order to be permitted to enter [those countries], and that with the release of those prisoners the Sandinist movement regains its effectiveness in Nicaragua. What do you have to say about this, Mr President?

[Answer] I do not know what arrangements exist between that organization and other organizations in the countries that you mentioned, but I do know that there are committees there called "of solidarity with the Nicaraguan people," which are made up mostly of well-known communists in those countries. But since I am not up to date on their books I do not know how much money they owe. What is true is that the front had been virtually eliminated in the northern part of the country. In the dismantling process all of those persons who committed criminal acts during the first 3 years of the administration were arrested and almost all of them were considered [words indistinct]. Also, their foremost leader, Carlos Fonseca Amador, and those second-in-command--Benito, Enrique Escobar, Munguia, Carlos Aguero Chavarria, and others--were also taken prisoner. Therefore, we can say that the front was virtually wiped out and that the newcomers who staged this attack are mostly new recruits. The leader of this attack I understand is a man named Pastora, a well-known militant who recently visited Costa Rica. Therefore, it is presumed that he illegally entered Nicaragua from Costa Rica to stage this attack.

Your understanding of the situation is correct. What they have done primarily by this action has been to rescue the persons who were in prison; the rest is a publicity stunt designed perhaps to get some money, because they abandoned many of their demands at the outset of negotiations.

[Text] [Question in English] Excuse me for asking again, but for U.S. television I would like to get an answer in English, so I'll ask the question again. After talking with National Guardsmen I noticed a definite bitterness on their part, saying that the negotiations were unclear. Do you think that this attitude on their part can endanger your control of the National Guard?

[Answer in English] I answered in Spanish, but I am going to answer you in English. [Words indistinct] obedient to the constitution and to the laws of Nicaragua. The National Guard is a nondeliberating body, it has had that position for many years and I don't think that they are going to be disobedient now.

[Question in English] Nicaraguans were massing on the roadside to the airport and seemed to be sympathetic and [announcer interrupts briefly] what does this behavior represent for Nicaraguan future in your opinion?

[Answer in English] We think that the Nicaraguan [several words indistinct] someday the country is going to be divided into democrats and [brief interruption by announcer].

[Question] Mr President, forgive me for standing up several times. Fidel Castro in the Sierra Maestra deceived the world. But the statement by the Sandinists which has been read shows clearly that they are going to impose communism over capitalism and the National Guard. Do you think that this statement, which was read by Tony [word indistinct] and heard abroad, improves relations between the North Americans and Nicaragua and strengthens your party and government more?

[Answer] I believe that their statement, which they demanded be published in the press and communications media, and over radio and television--after analyzing it carefully, I consider it detrimental to their movement. As to whether this is informative to governments which have relations with us such as the United States, I would answer yes because it is evident that the orientation which Mr Allan (Riley) wanted to ascribe to the Sandinist front, that is that they accepted any ideology and were trying to recruit democratic supporters to strengthen their movement, has been discredited by them and they have totally disavowed Allan (Riley) as their spokesman. I think that it strengthens my government because if anyone had any doubt about the intentions of these individuals they no longer have doubts. [applause]

[Question] Edgar Ruben Calderon of Estudio Abierto, Radio Managua. A followup to the question by Mr Miguel Angel (Garcia). Mr President, will this guerrilla operation obstruct in any manner the restructuring which you have been carrying out lately regarding the Nationalist Liberal Party for the 1981 elections?

[Answer] Absolutely not. It will not obstruct anything. We will go ahead with the restructuring and reorganization of the party and we will go ahead with the Liberal plebiscite to elect the new officials of the great convention. [applause]

[Question] [Words indistinct] do you know where the Sandinists who took part in the action are from and how many airplanes participated in taking them out and where they are headed?

[Answer] I know the leader of the movement is Eden Pastora. The last time we heard about him he was in Costa Rica. Therefore it is presumed that this was prepared from Costa Rica. There were two airplines, one C-130 from Venezuela and a Copa airplane from Panama. The persons and guerrillas who staged the attack were taken to Panama and the others were flown to Venezuela.

[Question] Mr President, I am quite concerned by the question asked by a foreign newsman who said that here in Nicaragua there is much enthusiasm for the communists and that many persons were massed along the roadside. I want to ask you a question to demonstrate that you have the support of the majority of Nicaraguans: What is the membership of the Nationalist Liberal Party which put you in power? How many persons, how many members are there in the Nationalist Liberal Party which put you in power? I want you to give me the number of the members of this party. [applause]

[Answer] There are 45,000 active members throughout the country at the moment. This is an average of 15 members on each of the 2,500 electoral tables. The other way of determining the size of a party is by traditional votes. The last elections which were in 1974 garnered 750,000 votes for the Nationalist Liberal Party. [applause]

[Announcer interrupts: "You have heard how Somoza has accused Costa Rica, both through Pastora, who was in the country..." [sentence unfinished]

[Answer continued] This is what the Nationalist Liberal Party represents in Nicaragua. As a reference point I can quote the last municipal elections in which Managua did not participate and yet the Nationalist Liberal Party obtained approximately half a million votes. If we add to this the 180,000 votes in Managua, this would amount to 680,000 votes which we might say is a very good count for an election which generates such little enthusiasm as do municipal elections. But I believe we are talking about a party which has from 600,000 to 750,000 supporters. [applause] [brief station interruption]

[Question] On this occasion the demands to have the prisoners who were named by the Sandinist front transferred did not get them to Cuba but to Costa Rica, Venezuela and Panama. Do you think that international communism had any role in the attack staged 2 days ago on the National Palace?

[Answer] One only has to listen to Radio Havana and make an analysis of its broadcasts to realize that it is one of the coordinating organs of the communists here in Nicaragua. Part of all their strength comes from the broadcasts of a state enterprise. Yes, I believe that there is complicity on the part of Radio Havana and on the part of Cuban officials in Costa Rica.

[Question] On various occasions, Mr President, there has been talk that the Cuban trade mission in Costa Rica and the Soviet Embassy in Costa Rica are the ones that are coordinating subversion in Central America. Has your government made any formal protest to the Government of Costa Rica regarding this situation?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Mr President, this document made public today by the radio stations is a [word indistinct] a cry of alert for the Nicaraguan capital, for the Latin American capital and for the U.S. Government. Do you believe that the gentlemen mentioned in this document, such as Mr (Telas) and the chairman of the BANIC [presumably Nicaraguan National Bank] group are now going to think about this situation and will no longer help these people, although they have done so before?

[Answer] If I were a man with a democratic ideology, I think I would not get involved with those who represent what that document has set forth.

[Question] Mr President, we represent Teleprensa of Guatemala. In Guatemla, as in the rest of Central America, we are concerned about what has happened. It has been a bold act, as it has been described. Mr President, I have two questions: Do you believe that this bold act will represent, as it is said, the final step leading to your fall as president, prior to the elections to which you have referred? My second question is: Does the Nicaraguan opposition, the group of 12, as they are known in Central America, have any [word indistinct] and could it have participated by supporting this bold act?

[Answer] Any blow against the institution of government is a blow against the stability of that government. But to answer your question, I will tell you that blows perhaps not as bold as this one have been dealt to many governments for many years. Your country is an example of this, as is mine and any other South American government. Therefore, I do not think that this action will interrupt the orderly development of our Constitution. About your second question, I would like to say that Mr Eden Pastora participated in the attack on the city of Rivas about 3 months ago. He participated in the Cardenas problem and is working under orders of the 12, who have been politically directing the front. Therefore, I would say there is a connection there. [sentence indistinct]

[Question] Mr President, those who attacked the National Palace were dressed in national army uniforms and were wearing masks. There is a rumor circulating to the effect that Dr Nora Astorga de Jenkins participated in the attack. Do you have any specific reports on this?

[Answer] Yes, there was a woman in the group. It was not Dr Jenkins.

[Question] Mr President, this morning you met the Sandinist front's request by delivering their prisoners and a large amount of money. Now the Broad Opposition Front is calling on all opposition groups and the Nicaraguan citizenry to stop all activities, that is, closing down the stores, the industries and other activities. [Words indistinct] are you going to yield? Are you going to take any measures to counter this national strike which has been announced?

[Answer] Well, the Broad Opposition Front has been asking over and over again for my resignation. Therefore, they are continuing their same battle. They can try whatever they want.

[Question] The communique says that all activities will cease until you leave. And if all business and industry comes to a standstill, what will your government do?

[Answer] Well, I wish them luck. [applause and laughter]

[Question] Good afternoon, Mr President, my name is (Lucho) Mejia Alvarez. I would like to know what is the political status of Nicaragua after the serious political events of Tuesday. In 1974 your government declared a state of siege and martial law. After these events we are also confronted with the problem that the newscasts throughout the country have been suspended. Will all this return to normal after these events?

[Answer] Yes, all this will return to normal.

[Question] Mr President, the Sandinists, the guerrillas who were in the palace, presented several demands in order to release the hostages. [Words indistinct] are you going to yield to these points?

[Answer] That is a very good question. No, they abandoned those points very quickly in the negotiations.

[Question] Mr President, so that Nicaragua will not turn into a second Cuba, in addition to an alleged [word indistinct] what are the specific measures that the government will adopt now in the economic, political and social fields?

[Answer] In the political area, we are already implementing a political opening so that the small political parties, with ideologies different from that of the Liberal Nationalist and Conservative parties, can participate in the elections. In the economic field we have begun to pass certain laws favoring the Nicaraguan worker. The social security system should be extended to cover farmers. We are going to pass the civil service law and we are going to amend the labor code in certain aspects. [station announcer interrupts] In the social area, there is social security, the labor code amendment and the incorporation of domestic servants into the social security system, which is part of the economic area. In the economic field we have adopted the idea of establishing taxes on those industries which up until now had been exempt. (?Changes) will be made to income taxes. Deductions have been increased to 48,000 cordobas, rather than 33,000 cordobas, in order to help those in the middle-income brackets improve their salaries.

[illegible] economic field the state will continue to promote economic growth with the help of the unprecedented economic activity resulting from the prices of coffee, cattle, seafood, cotton and gold. Thus, as far as the economic situation is concerned, for the next 5 years, Nicaragua has a brilliant future in view of world market prices. This, of course, will bring about economic well-being for all Nicaraguans. [announcer interrupts]

[Answer] I do not want to accuse the Miami HERALD of inventing things. I have not said that to any side.

[Question] After the prolonged crisis which the country has endured it was believed that financial uncertainty would result. Could you comment on this? How deep is the crisis? What is the true situation?

[Answer] The country's financial crisis is the result of a series of factors which were unavoidable. As you know, there was an earthquake in 1972 in Nicaragua. From 1972 to this date all the money from (?insurance) and capital investments has been used in the reconstruction of Managua. Large sums of international aid flowed in quickly after the earthquake to prevent hunger and unemployment, particularly among the workers in Managua. In this manner the Nicaraguan economy was pushed to an unprecedented high. When the country, the city and the people returned to normal, international aid was reduced as well as the reinvestments of insurance. Therefore, what we have had in Nicaragua has been a readjustment of the economy. The economic depression which we are now enduring in Nicaragua is the result of a return to the rate of growth which Nicaragua had prior to the massive injection of investments following the earthquake. [1-minute station interruption] It was first believed that fiscal reform was possible in 1974, which would go hand-in-hand with the country's growth. However, certain changes were made to the law which left it practically inoperative and which did not work out as planned. With the drop in the country's economic activity, which in itself involved the enactment of that reform, the collection of taxes has not reached the level planned by those who formulated the fiscal reform of 1974. In order to avoid devaluating the cordoba, I had to be very shrewd in these political situations and live up to the responsibility of establishing new taxes to protect the worker who earns in cordobas and will continue purchasing in cordobas. Therefore, the fiscal reform which we have approved is not only a fiscal reform, but a [word indistinct] reform to protect consumers. [applause]

[Question] Mr President: Will the Radio Directorate allow us--the newsmen who were witness to the incidents which took place inside the National Palace--to fully report on everything we saw?

[Answer] Yes, young lady. [applause]

[Question] My name is Luis (Arolia) from Chinandega and I would like to ask you three short questions. But before asking them, I would like to congratulate you for having saved so many lives without bloodshed. My first question: How is your government's morale following this act by the Sandinist front? The second question: Have the identities of the 20 or 25 guerrillas been fully established by the authorities? The third question: Will a military court investigate the events?

[Answer] I believe that the government's morale is high. Proof of this was the attitude of the government employees who were mistreated, offended in the National Palace. Since there is neither a suspension of guarantees or martial law, the proper judges of Nicaragua, under the penal code, will take charge of the investigations into the attack on the national Congress and the government offices in the National Palace.

[Question] Mr President, Janet Ordeno of Econoticias of Radio Continental. I would like you to tell me what security measures the Nicaraguan Government is going to take to prevent situations such as that which occurred 2 days ago in the National Palace.

[Answer] Yesterday and today, I was thinking about how the attitude of the citizens in a country cause customs to change. One can imagine that now no one will be safe from a political act because now these attacks are being described as political acts. In the past, these were common criminal acts, but now the communists are saying that any attack is political if the attacker claims to belong to a communist organization. As a result, the Nicaraguan people, and today the world, are experiencing a very interesting dilemma. We have to review the system of values which has been governing the world. But it is a biased system of values because such an attack in the USSR is a crime, not a political act. Only here in the Western world do the Soviets and those who follow communist ideas call it a crime. [as heard] Therefore, we will have to spend money on improved security in Nicaragua. [1-minute station interruption]

[Question--in progress] pronounced by the guerrillas in their communique, the attitude of the political parties of the opposition will have to change?

[Answer] I cannot answer for the opposition political parties. In fact, it is better that I refrain from speaking because if I say white, they say black, and if I say black, they say white. That is how things are with them.

[Question] Mr President, my question might seem critical of your attitude. [1 and 1/2-minute station interruption] [Question continues] of a human being, even if he is in the best jail in the world. First of all, I wish to thank the National Guard for its efforts to avoid committing errors and shedding blood in the way that I saw it shed on the second floor of the National Palace. I wish to ask this question, Mr President, since you are the number one citizen in this country. It pained me greatly to see that the Nicaraguan flag was taken down from the most sacred patriotic symbol, the national Congress, and supplanted by a red and black flag which, to traditional Nicaraguans, is no more than a symbol of idealistic, if mistaken, youths. But it is not the symbol of our fatherland. How could we vindicate our flag at the national Congress? By seeing that our patriotic values and our forefathers are truly honored, or by being indifferent to this act? I think that you, Mr President, as the first citizen, should set the guidelines.

[Answer] I try to set them. If you are challening me to continue to set the guidelines, I am going to do so.

[Question] Actually, Mr President, I am not challenging you, I am simply expressing an opinion, but perhaps you, as the ruler of the republic, could speak to the people who are watching and listening to us and could tell us what we newsmen, professors, parents, the people who guide this country, could do to insure that the country's flag is never again removed from the altar at the national Congress.

[Answer] I quote the words of the illustrious newsman and I repeat them. We Nicaraguans, in the face of any eventuality, any ideology, must uphold the patriotic symbols and heroes of our Nicaraguan history. Partisanship should not loom larger than the fatherland itself. All those who believe that partisansnip is greater than the fatherland itself do the things which those people did at the national Congress: Remove the Nicaraguan flag and replace it with a flag of a certain sector. You are quite right. There have been incidents at the schools in which inexperienced youths have been sent to try to raise that red and black flag where the blue and white flag of Nicaragua should fly. This is the epitome of partisanship and I must call on all Nicaraguans to consider the fatherland over and above the special interests of one sector. [applause] I wish to take advantage of your question to address at this time all the newsmen of the republic and to congratulate those who were held and kidnaped by the terrorists, to congratulate them for their stance. I believe that they will do the nation a service by relating their experiences, because journalism should report the truth and it should be true to itself.

I am proud of the stance maintained by newsmen during the time of their captivity and I am pleased that no one was shot. I have to apologize to those who were struck by the terrorists' guns because the authorities should never permit that in Nicaragua. My recognition to those newsmen who were imprisoned. [applause]

[Question] Mr President, I was among the newsmen who were pushed around at gunpoint, kept on the ground and stepped on with boots. My ordeal began when I was asked my name and I said that I was Luis Manuel Martinez of the newspaper NOVEDADES. I now repeat that here. You are being addressed by Luis Manuel Martinez of the newspaper NOVEDADES. During my 48 hours in captivity, unlike my colleagues who were on the ground floor, I was (?closeted) with the leaders of the Rigoberto Lopez Perez Command. Each time they addressed me they said: In addition to being a maggot [gusano] you are stupid. Somoza is not interested in your life or in the lives of any of this group of people. He is interested in the deputies. You are going before the firing squad here, because Somoza is concerned only about his friends. I never answered them, nor did I ever doubt that the 1,428 Nicaraguans who were in that building would emerge from it alive, because you were the one who was negotiating. However, I wish to tell you that the entire internal psychological operation directed by "Cero" toward me, to demoralize me, and toward other newsmen was designed to make us change our beliefs, to make us say, under threat, that we were serving a corrupt tyrant and a man from whom we would have to withdraw our friendship. Since this did not occur, I had to submit to the gun butt and to mistreatment and I wish to express my thanks here to the priests and the bishops who brought me water when I was dying of thirst and my thanks for the integrity and the confidence which is exuded by a man of integrity. If your name had not been in my mind, while I was held alone, separate from all the other newsmen, I would not have passed the trial by fire of constant psychological bombardment, which sought to have me renounce my participation in this struggle. When they bade me farewell yesterday, saying that they would return in 2 months time, I told them that we will be right here, whichever month it may be. This is the attitude which was upheld there: the attitude of the deputies, the sick women, the men with illnesses. They were certain that there was a strong will defending their lives and that effort was not just the effort of a ruler but that of a man who is so humane that at times he renounces his role as an authority to serve the unhappy persons who were caught in the siege. For this reason, I wish to ask you, Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle, whenever we are confronting violence to keep in mind that neither the newsmen, the deputies, nor the people who today refused to applaud the terrorists will ever fail you, because you have not failed us. [applause]

[Answer] Thank you. The words of newsman Luis Manuel Martinez are very touching. I believe they will mark a milestone in the history of the free interplay of opinions in Nicaragua, because [brief station interruption] to express our feelings and political philosophy, but at no time have we been literally forced. It is significant to note what Luis Manuel Martinez said here, because he is saying it now. However, I had already spoken with persons with whom those terrorists could never imagine the president of the republic talking to. And last night they told me exactly the same thing that Luis Manuel Martinez related here. Those men wished to say that if the government employees died it would be Somoza's fault, because Somoza was only concerned about the deputies. They wished to say that if they experienced difficulties it was because they were not asking for anything extraordinary.

But the truth is that we are seeing a small example of the end product. If you do not sing as I do, there is no (?choir). If you do not do as I say, it is your fault, not mine. We see the symptoms of a totally one-sided system regime which these individuals seek to impose on Nicaragua. That is why I think that the youths who say that they lack liberty in Nicaragua should make a new analysis of the circumstances surrounding them in order to be able to appreciate what real liberty is, what the civic spirit of a citizen really means [announcer briefly interrupts to make station identification] could cast a shadow of doubt because you are partial to the democratic system.

But the story of secretaries, doormen, whose only act was having cast their votes peaceful, expressing their ideals not necessarily in a newspaper, fully confirms what you say. What you say is true because what they did to you they also did to [illegible] secretaries, trying to force them to change their feelings, to change their political beliefs, and their feelings toward other persons in Nicaragua. That is why I want to tell you that I support what you have said because what you said has also been told to me by someone whom you perhaps have not even seen. I am proud to have friends such as you, such as that secretary and such as those many thousands who endured the situation while this problem was being resolved. [applause]

[Question] The manifesto left by the Sandinist front states their threat against that person or political group who deals with you in the future [word indistinct] the political destiny of Nicaragua. In strengthening democracy in Nicaragua, what role will you play in establishing this country as a true democracy.

[Answer] Well, in the first place, there is no true democracy if I fear my neighbor speaking to my other neighbor. Therefore, those who are denying democracy are these communists. In previous press conferences we mentioned that they were intimidating the men of noncommunist ideals in Nicaragua. And yesterday they confirmed that they are the ones who are intimidating. Now if those of the opposition do not get together on what they want for this country, then the Nationalist Liberal Party and I, so long as I am president, will lead the country to orderly and democratic development. But if they do not want to cooperate, that is up to them.

[Question] Mr President, so that the citizens will be clearly and totally informed on what you did yesterday, it would be interesting if you told everyone whether the National Guard was militarily ready to storm the National Palace in the event no agreement was reached and how long it would have taken the National Guard and its units to seize control of the palace.

[Answer] I will describe how the situation was viewed. We estimated that there were 70 men adequately armed to defend themselves. We estimated that they had approximately 200 rounds per man and that they could expend these 200 rounds in 20 minutes. In 20 minutes they would have had no more ammunition. The number of casualties on the part of the National Guard in an operation supposedly does not count because we can replace them. On the other hand, they did not have any reinforcements. But these individuals are fanatics of the Kamikaze type. If you talk to persons who were held hostage you will learn that they pulled the fuses from the bombs which they held in their hands and they passed them among five persons saying "when the first shot rings out I will let this go and kill five persons." And they had the deputies sequestered in a room which is about this high. At the door, there was a man with a machinegun, with bombs in his hand, saying that at the first shot all would be killed [words indistinct]. On two or three occasions the deputies made the sign of the cross because they thought they were going to be shot. Estimating that they would use up their ammunition in 20 minutes and would use up only one magazine on the 500 persons who were in the sessions room, on the 50 deputies and on the other captives, it would cost us Nicaraguans more than 300 wounded or dead. Then only 20 minutes. Gentlemen, Nicaragua needs its children. It does not need martyrs, fanatics such as those 20 or 25. Then there was the military consideration. We would have won a Pyrrhic victory. Winning by violence, but shattering the peace of a nation by killing many persons. [applause]

[Question] Mr President, perhaps you have skipped over certain details which, since this press conference is concluding, could serve to complete our report. For example, the total number of hostages; has the government prepared itself to face the [illegible] strike and, after overcoming the crisis, will the communications media be broadcasting normally?

[Answer] Yes, the government is prepared for future political activity and the communications media will be reporting normally once we have fulfilled the commitments acquired [illegible] beyond our control.

[Question] The number of hostages, on which there has been much confusion, has been quoted at 1800 [illegible], and we do not know. Perhaps you have figures.

[Answer] Up until this afternoon they were still processing the persons who left the palace and I do not have the exact number, so I cannot answer you.

[Question] Good afternoon, President Somoza. I am William Roy Murillo of PRENSA LIBRE. I would like to ask you three questions. First, in the Espana Polideportivo Stadium you said that as of that moment the campaign of the Liberal Party would be launched to elect the new president for the new electoral period. My question is: If the opposition has said publicly that it will not go to any election because it has no confidence in you or in the Liberal Party, with what party will you go to the elections in 1981 if there is no party going to the elections? Since the democratic system requires an electoral struggle of parties or several parties, how are you going to maintain democracy if no one is going to go to the elections?

[Answer] That possibility could exist anywhere if the parties decree an abstention. What the parties have said is that they do not want to engage in dialog, but they have not abstained from public debate; they have not abstained from debating in the congress, in the courts, on the radio and in the newspapers all that is occurring. Therefore, they have not called an abstention. You are talking about abstentionism and confusing it with the fact that they do not want to engage in dialog. Abstentionism has not been decreed as yet by any party in Nicaragua.

[Question] Many citizens were commenting on the fact that the government has given only $500,000 to those who led the operation. Regarding the bank drafts which they requested be sent to several countries, can you explain this Mr President?

[Answer] My opinion is that they set those demands as a publicity stunt so that Sandino's daughter would think that I opposed sending $500,000 to her, so that Father Cardenal would think that I objected to sending $5 million to him and so that the Venezuelan solidarity committee would think that I objected to sending another sum of money to it. Do you understand? They have also enlightened me. I realize that the Venezuelan solidarity committee is what they always considered it to be--the Venezuelan communists. Thus, it has served me quite a bit in orienting myself.

[Question] Mr President, my last question is as follows: It has been noticed that Nicaraguan youth is the most strongly opposed to your government. If the Nicaraguan youth of today will practically rule the country in the future, how does the government or party plan to fight this youth who are struggling ideologically, primarily, and through all means, to set a more democratic course in the future.

[Answer] Well, more democratic? Honestly, they will have to do it themselves, because we are educating them [for this]. Regimes are democratic or not according to the level of culture of the people. Therefore, I agree that Nicaragua is not absolutely democratic because we have not reached that level of education that allows proper enforcement of the law. He who does not admit this today in Nicaragua is not speaking (the truth). However, we have tried to educate the men living in this country so that they will be more democratic. The Nicaragua in which I am living is not even a shadow of the Nicaragua in which Somoza Garcia, my father, lived. Go back into history and see if they made so many attacks against him. Nothing doing. But we must recognize that both I as well as the politicians who are now recognize that we have a country which is evolving and which has been evolving for the past 10 years, that we have a youth who demands opportunities and that this youth must see who is taking their opportunities away so that they will redirect their rebellion. The government is trying to give them every opportunity, starting off by removing their ignorance by means of more schools, schools which they are trying to sabotage because they have not legitimately come before the government to complain about bad teachers, the lack of classes, the lack of time, the lack of this or that.

Then it is a political attitude instilled in them by their parents or by agitators. But I like this because when there are a few who want to fool around, there are many who want to avail themselves of the services which the government provides. Therefore, in this conflict I think that the Liberal Party is winning because conscientious people realize that the government party is trying to provide services and others are trying to disrupt this. [Word indistinct] these people, because the communists have wanted us to suspend the school year and we will not do it. The school year will be lost due to the attitude and nonsense of the students who go along with this. But in the other centers that make a go of it, the school year will pass normally. Thus, Nicaragua is not depriving anyone of an opportunity, it is not depriving the youth of anything, yet the students are depriving themselves of the opportunity to conclude the academic year. And they will have to repeat the year. No sir, to lose a year at that tender age just because of politics, I would have to be more than crazy to do that. That is my answer to you about youth. Thank you [applause]

[Question] My father is Panamanian and my mother is Nicaraguan. About 2 months ago I interviewed Panamanian chief of government Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera on the diplomatic relations between our country and Panama. Mr President, what do you think of the attitude of the Panamanian Government in offering political asylum to those who are the enemies of your regime? However, it has been said that.... [Somoza interrupts]

[Answer] Let me answer you. We requested that the Panamanian Government receive these terrorists and the Panamanian Government has agreed to cooperate with us.

[Question] But Mr President, do you not think that the Panamanian chief of government is not taking into consideration the great aid which you once gave him when a military coup d'etat was planned against him? It was said that you were one of the bulwarks, as a ruler, in helping him--Gen Omar Torrijos--to return to Panama.

[Answer] Yes, I have been a friend and I am a friend of General Torrijos. I helped him at the time of the coup but this has nothing to do with the present situation. [applause] Once again I wish to thank you for being here. I wish to tell you that if this is a historical moment in Nicaragua, let us learn many lessons from this, lessons which will change our future. Thank you.

Commander Cero Interviewed

PA2414152Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1230 GMT 29 Aug 78 FA

[Phone Interview direct from the National Palace in Managua with Commander Cero, leader of the Rigoberto Lopez Perez Command that seized the Palace, conducted by Francisco Rubiales, ACAN-EFE NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Panama--recorded; date not given]

[Text] [Question] Commander, how long did it take to prepare the operation for the seizure of Managua's National Palace?

[Answer] I cannot tell you that. It is a military secret.

[Question] Well, there have been several international cables, one of them from Havana, in which the leader of the Sandinist group resident in Havana says that the front spent 2 years secretly and carefully preparing this operation because it was regarded as vital. Is this true?

[Answer] Well, I do not know where they got that information, but they must have their reasons [as heard].

[Question] All right. Commander, you have had to give in on certain demands and President Somoza has had to give in on others. Now that the operation is about to conclude, do you regard its result as a victory or a defeat for the Sandinist front?

[Answer] Definitely a victory.

[Question] Why do you regard it as a big victory?

[Answer] Because we got what we were demanding.

[Question] All that you were demanding?

[Answer] Yes, all that we were demanding.

[Question] But, commander, I understand there has been a sizable reduction in the economic aspect.

[Answer] Well, look, the economic aspect is the least important one. Above all, it is the political aspect [that interests us], the publication of the communiques and the release of the prisoners. The rest is secondary.

[Question] So the rest is secondary. Will all the prisoners be released?

[Answer] Well, many of the prisoners were not in the jails. They had to be looked for in the cemeteries. It is painful, but that is the way it is in this country.

[Question] [It is] painful. How many prisoners had died?

[Answer] About 25 or 30 comrades had been massacred.

[Question] Massacred?

[Answer] That is the way our comrades die.

[Question] In the jails?

[Answer] In the jails and, at times, on the very spot where they are captured.

[Question] Commander, could you tell us where the group trained?

[Answer] Where did the group train?

[Question] The group that participated in the Rigoberto Lopez Perez operation.

[Answer] In Nicaragua. All of us are Nicaraguans and we trained in Nicaragua.

[Question] So the rumors that you trained in Cuba are not true?

[Answer] No, those are speculations made by the politicians.

[Question] Could you summarize the development of the operation for our listeners?

[Answer] Well, to begin, the national directorate gave instructions for the release of the prisoners, our (?imprisoned) comrades. On the basis of those orders we began working in Nicaragua and seized the palace. In a little over 2 and 1/2 minutes we controlled the situation. One of our comrades was slightly wounded in one leg and the enemy had four casualties. That was all. Then the enemy surrounded the palace and indiscriminately fired, wounding 10 people and killing about 5 others. They did the same thing that they had done at the Intercontinental Hotel, with the small difference that (?this time) we fired back and they had to withdraw. After more than 24 hours of negotiation the dictatorship yielded to our demands. In that manner we obtained the release of our prisoners and the publication of our communiques notifying Nicaragua and the entire world that there is a people fighting to the death for its freedom.

[Question] Although you said that it is not important, I would like to insist on the economic aspect. What was the final amount agreed upon?

[Answer] Well, about $500,000.

[Question] $500,000?

[Answer] Yes, and I can tell you that the operation cost more than we have now obtained economically. Comparing it with what we obtained politically, it is really nothing.

[Question] Commander, you know that the seizure of the National Palace has made the headlines in all of the world press and has also been the opening news in radio and television newscasts. Is there anything you want to tell the press from the palace?

[Answer] Well, that we are inside the National Palace, a free territory in Nicaragua, and that we are aware of the worldwide political repercussion since only on two occasions has there been a similar situation--in ancient Rome [as heard] and now in modern Rome, here in the heart of America.

[Question] How many members does the command have and to what tendency within the front do they belong? We understand that the front is divided into three tendencies. Could you explain this to us?

[Answer] Well, I cannot answer your first question because it is a military secret. All right?

[Interviewer] All right.

[Answer] As to the second question, we belong to the tertiary group.

[Interviewer] The tertiary group.

[Answer] Our political tendencies are Sandinist and revolutionary.

[Question] And how is it different from the other tendencies?

[Answer] More than anything else, in the strategic-military aspect. The way of conducting the revolutionary war.

[Question] How do you understand [revolutionary war]?

[Answer] We understand it as a short-range armed insurrection along the Pacific belt, where most of the population is concentrated.

[Question] And how about the others?

[Answer] [They view revolutionary war] as a prolonged popular war involving the accumulation of forces in the mountains, guerrilla warfare. This is why over the past months they have been dedicating or dedicated themselves, I do not know which, to accumulating forces which were practically annihilated by the enemy.

[Question] Where will the operation end--in Panama or Caracas?

[Answer] Where will the operation end? You mean where....

[Question] Where will you..?

[Answer] Some of our prisoners will go to Panama and the other part to Venezuela.

[Question] And what about you?

[Answer] You mean the command?

[Question] Yes, the command.

[Answer] We shall stay in Panama.

[Question] In Panama. Will you be traveling on the plane with hostages?

[Answer] No, we will be traveling with the apostolic nuncio, the (?highest-ranking) figure of the Nicaraguan Catholic Church, and two ambassadors.

[Question] Which ambassadors?

[Answer] The Panamanian ambassador, and I understand that the one from Colombia will be the other.

[Question] [Words indistinct] Colombia.

[Answer] The Costa Rican ambassador could not make it at the last moment because apparently the efforts made during the negotiations tired him.

[Question] Tney tired him. What is your opinion of the bishops who served as mediators?

[Answer] Excellent, timely and Christian.

[Question] Since you mentioned the word Christian, are there many Christians, many Catholics, among the members of the Sandinist front?

[Answer] Definitely. Our people are eminently Christian, eminently Catholic. Our organization is open to all political and religious creeds, but since our people are mostly Catholic, most of our militants are Catholic.

[Question] Commander, to conclude, I must ask the obligatory question: Is Somoza going to fall or not and, if so, when? What is your opinion on this?

[Answer] Somoza will fall. What I cannot tell you is whether that will happen tomorrow or next year, but he will fall.

[Question] Can this operation serve to bring about his fall sooner? What is your opinion?

[Answer] Well, this operation is a blow in the knee, a shot in the knee, as we hunters say. This will hasten the process.

[Question] And what is preventing Somoza from falling?

[Answer] Above all, the North Americans.

[Question] Do the North Americans support him?

[Answer] The North Americans support him. That is perfectly obvious.

[Question] Would the North Americans not be interested in an alternate solution for Nicaragua?

[Answer] Well, the [word indistinct] of the people are averse from showing that but the North Americans cannot hear because they have large vested interests.

[Question] It is said that Nicaragua's big problem is that behind Somoza lies a Marxist revolution, that there is no intermediate stand.

[Answer] Behind Somoza lies a power vacuum and the Sandinist National Liberation Front with a nationalist policy, but the North Americans do not tolerate even nationalistic policies here in Latin America.

[Question] Commander, over the past few days you have been the hero of the world press and public opinion. Could you tell us something about yourself, your age and some other information about your life, whatever you can tell us that is not secret?

[Answer] I am 42. I was born in a remote Nicaraguan town. I am conservative, have conservative customs, was raised in a conservative Catholic family and was educated by the Jesuits. I have lost four wives. No, I correct myself, three wives and have married four times because in this highly active revolutionary life the first thing we revolutionaries lose is our wives. The last thing we lose in our lives. Between our wives and our lives we lose our freedom, our happiness, our means of living; we lose many things.

[Question] Do you still regard yourself as a former Jesuit pupil or are you a Marxist?

[Answer] I am a Sandinist and a revolutionary.

[Question] All right, commander, we thank you very much for these statements.

[Answer] Thank you. At your service.

ECUADOR

NEW ELECTIONS ORDERED IN COTOPAXI PROVINCE

PA2147377 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 24 Aug 78 PA

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has decided to call new presidential elections in Cotopaxi Province. It will replace the 16 July election, which was annulled when it was proven that there were irregularities in the dispatching of the electoral records. The decision was made in the wake of a request [words indistinct] of Cotopaxi, which considered to be frustrating to the popular will the fact that some 43,000 votes were invalidated. Without doubt, the measure was also adopted following the criticism of an accusation against the tribunal to the effect that it was the author of the many annulments and that it was attempting to disavow the people's will.

In explaining the basis for repeating the elections, Jose Baquero de la Calle, president of the Electoral Tribunal said: [begin recording] According to Article 19, paragraph J. of the electoral law, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal is authorized to interpret the elections law, and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, employing this power and in order to fill a vacuum in the law, has made this decision, which is applicable in the case of Cotopaxi. Thus, we are attending to the request of the forces in Cotopaxi which came to ask that [words indistinct] the elections in that province [words indistinct]. This legal path has been found to acknowledge this request. There is no reason to suspend the tallying of votes. We had indicated that the tally would end around the end of September and a [words indistinct] has been made so that we will have the result of the new elections in Cotopaxi before [words indistinct] [end recording]

GOVERNMENT FAVORS 5-PERCENT OIL PRICE HIKE

PA2019217 Paris AFP in Spanish 1805 GMT 20 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 20 Aug (AFP)--Ecuador today declared here its support for a 5-percent readjustment in the international price of oil in view of current international market conditions. Saying that Ecuador favors this readjustment, Gen Jaime Semblantes, minister of natural resources and energy, endorsed the requests of OPEC members such as Iran, Iraq and Venezuela which have advocated an international price hike. Semblantes noted that favorable circumstances exist for the hike as a result of a certain balance between world production and consumption. The minister added that this will be the way to solve the problem of the excessive supply noted in recent months, which compelled the producing countries to lower crude prices, thus disturbing the OPEC market. The minister also mentioned problems which Ecuador has had to face with its crude exports by having to set special prices for sales to the United States ($12.30 a barrel) Colombia ($12.40) and Chile ($12.45).

HAITI

POLITICAL REFUGEE AT MEXICAN EMBASSY FLEES

PA2316357 Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 23 Aug 78 PA

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 22 Aug (AFP)--Unofficial sources reported here today that a person who had taken political asylum at the Mexican Embassy here and who had escaped from the ambassador's residence on Friday night has left Haiti aboard a motorboat. A boat owned by Port-au-Prince businessman Georges Hasboun which was anchored at a beach north of here has disappeared. According to the sources, Lucien Rigaud, the man who had taken asylum, received numerous visits from his Swiss brother-in-law during the past few days at the Mexican Embassy.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

DAILY REPORT volumes are published Monday through Friday in both paper version (mailed daily) and microfiche version (mailed weekly). The annual subscription fee for the paper version within the United States, Canada, and Mexico is $150 for any one volume and $50 for each additional volume. This includes occasional supplements. In microfiche the fee is $100 for any one volume, $125 for two volumes, $150 for three, $200 for four, $250 for five, $300 for six, $350 for seven, and $400 for all eight volumes. Foreign subscriptions outside North America are available from appointed foreign dealers or from NTIS. For information contact NTIS. U.S. government officials may obtain subscriptions at no charge directly from FBIS. Phone 527-2368 (area code 703) or write P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013.

The volumes are: I - People's Republic of China; II - Eastern Europe; III - Soviet Union; IV - Asia & Pacific; V - Middle East & North Africa; VI - Latin America; VII - Western Europe; VIII - Sub-Saharan Africa. Back issues or single copies are not available. Allow 30 days for processing new subscriptions. Mail remittances, inquiries, and address changes to the NTIS address below.

Note: The publications of the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), which are sometimes cited in the DAILY REPORT, can also be ordered from NTIS in single copies or by subscription. In ordering, please cite the JPRS title, number, date and author if applicable.

Both the DAILY REPORT and JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at public and university libraries throughout the United States.

NTIS

National Technical Information Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Springfield, Virginia 22151